This is a digital copy of a book that was preserved for generations on library shelves before it was carefully scanned by Google as part of a project to make the world's books discoverable online.

It has survived long enough for the copyright to expire and the book to enter the public domain. A public domain book is one that was never subject to copyright or whose legal copyright term has expired. Whether a book is in the public domain may vary country to country. Public domain books are our gateways to the past, representing a wealth of history, culture and knowledge that's often difficult to discover.

Marks, notations and other marginalia present in the original volume will appear in this file - a reminder of this book's long journey from the publisher to a library and finally to you.

Usage guidelines

Google is proud to partner with libraries to digitize public domain materials and make them widely accessible. Public domain books belong to the public and we are merely their custodians. Nevertheless, this work is expensive, so in order to keep providing this resource, we have taken steps to prevent abuse by commercial parties, including placing technical restrictions on automated querying.

We also ask that you:

+ *Make non-commercial use of the files* We designed Google Book Search for use by individuals, and we request that you use these files for personal, non-commercial purposes.
+ *Refrain from automated querying* Do not send automated queries of any sort to Google's system: If you are conducting research on machine translation, optical character recognition or other areas where access to a large amount of text is helpful, please contact us. We encourage the use of public domain materials for these purposes and may be able to help.
+ *Maintain attribution* The Google "watermark" you see on each file is essential for informing people about this project and helping them find additional materials through Google Book Search. Please do not remove it.
+ *Keep it legal* Whatever your use, remember that you are responsible for ensuring that what you are doing is legal. Do not assume that just because we believe a book is in the public domain for users in the United States, that the work is also in the public domain for users in other countries. Whether a book is still in copyright varies from country to country, and we can't offer guidance on whether any specific use of any specific book is allowed. Please do not assume that a book's appearance in Google Book Search means it can be used in any manner anywhere in the world. Copyright infringement liability can be quite severe.

About Google Book Search

Google's mission is to organize the world's information and to make it universally accessible and useful. Google Book Search helps readers discover the world's books while helping authors and publishers reach new audiences. You can search through the full text of this book on the web at `http://books.google.com/`

NYPL RESEARCH LIBRARIES
3 3433 07589805 0

1. Chandler Green, Eng. - Hist.

G.D.

C Evan Thomas
p'd 1898
Wm P. Tyler

(Church Road)
Spring

THE HISTORY

OF

CHURCH PREEN,

IN

THE COUNTY OF SALOP.

BY

ARTHUR SPARROW, F.S.A.

Edited by

ERNEST ARTHUR EBBLEWHITE,

FELLOW OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON, AND HON. ASSOCIATE OF THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

LONDON:
PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION.

1898.

p.B.B

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY
455252 A
ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS
R 1929 L

20 AND 21, BEDFORDBURY,
LONDON, W.C.

NEW YORK
PUBLIC
LIBRARY

EDITORIAL NOTE.

As one who was closely associated with the late Mr. SPARROW in his literary work and had the honour of his personal friendship, I have been asked by his daughter, Miss EDITH SPARROW, to revise these sheets for the press: a task which I have gladly undertaken. Mr. SPARROW took the keenest possible interest in this "History", and devoted much time and skill to its details; and I have tried to make my own small share of the work worthy of my dear friend.

ERNEST A. EBBLEWHITE.

LONDON,
August 13th, 1898.

PREFACE.

THIS little book has been written at intervals of leisure during a busy life, and I am quite aware how very incomplete it is, in every way, especially as to the early history of Preen; but I have done my best to be accurate, and to secure this I have made many searches in the Record Office, the British Museum, the Bodleian, the *Diocesan Records of Hereford*, the *Hundred Rolls of Edward I*, and other available sources of information. But, above all, I owe most to EYTON, especially as to the early history of Preen, and I cannot help expressing my sense of the herculean labour he undertook when he commenced to write *The Antiquities of Shropshire*, a work that must always stand by itself among the records of the county.

I must thank Professor Earle for his most interesting letters as to the derivation of the name of "Preen", and my acknowledgments are due also to Professor Rhys. The illustrations are chiefly reproduced from drawings and photographs, which I owe principally to the kindness of my niece, Miss

F. J. Fowke, and my daughter; but I must not forget to thank Miss Beddoes, of Hereford, for her most interesting drawing of Preen Church, which has enabled me to show the Church as it was before restoration. I am also indebted to Miss Ecroyd, of Credenhill, for a most charming drawing showing the east end of the Church.

Lastly, I must thank my friend Mr. Ernest A. Ebblewhite, F.S.A., for his invaluable assistance.

ARTHUR SPARROW.

PREEN MANOR, SHREWSBURY,
January 15*th*, 1898.

TO

MY DAUGHTER,

EDITH.

In Memoriam

ARTHUR SPARROW, J.P., D.L., F.S.A.,

DIED AT PREEN MANOR,

21st January, 1898.

Aged 71.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. East End of Church Preen Church, before old house was pulled down. MRS. STACKHOUSE ACTON . *Cover*

2. The Author's "Ex Libris", 1895. HARRY SOANE . . xi

3. Map of the District, reduced from the Ordnance Map *facing p.* 1

4. Preen Manor House; North-East View. R. NORMAN SHAW, R.A. . . . . *facing p.* 16

5. Old Manor House, Preen; pulled down in 1870 (from an Old Drawing) . . . . *facing p.* 24

6. Old Manor House, Preen.—Suggested Restoration. W. D. GRIFFIN . . . . . *facing p.* 32

7. Old Manor House, Preen.—Pulled down in 1870 (from a Photograph) . . . . *facing p.* 40

8. Preen Manor House.—View of South Angle. EDITH SPARROW . . . . . *facing p.* 56

9. Preen Manor House.—The Terrace Garden (from a Photograph) . . . . . *facing p.* 64

10. Preen Manor House.—View from the Terrace. EDITH SPARROW . . . . . *facing p.* 72

11. Church Preen Church prior to its Restoration (from a Sketch in the possession of Miss C. M. Beddoes) . *facing p.* 88

12. Church Preen Church—East End. MISS E. M. ECROYD. *facing p.* 104

13. Church Preen Bells: Inscriptions.—I. Pre-Reformation; II. Modern . . . . . *facing p.* 112

14. The Preen Yew (from a Photograph) . . *facing p.* 120

PRO PATRIA
LATRIA ATRIA
IN DEO
SOLO
EST
SALVS
EX LIB. ARTHVRI SPARROW. S.A.S.
A.D. 1895.

THE

HISTORY OF CHURCH PREEN.

Derivation. Various derivations have been applied to the name of Preen or Prene.

In the *Blakeway MSS.*, now in the Bodleian, Blakeway says Prene probably received its name from being a place where the Gospel was preached in very early times, from the Saxon *pregan*, to preach; and Egbert Pren, King of Kent, was so called from having been a preacher. No doubt the fact of Preen having been the site of an early Christian church is in favour of this solution, but Professor Rhys says the Anglo-Saxon word *préon*, which would now be pronounced exactly "preen", means "a pin or brooch", so that I think we can hardly accept Mr. Blakeway's view.

The Rev. John Earle, LL.D., of Oxford, the well-known Anglo-Saxon scholar and Professor, from whom I have received many interesting letters upon the subject, says that he has come to the conclusion that the name Preen is the extant relic of a phrase which once ran in the Anglo-Saxon of the tenth century *aet thære pirian*, "at the pear-

tree", or, rather, "at the pear", for the last word only has survived, and has become *Preen;* the word "tree" not being at all represented in the phrase.

I called Professor Earle's attention to the fact that neither the pear-tree nor the apple-tree could be said to flourish in the neighbourhood of Preen, but he thought that this fact made in his favour, as that it is not where pear-trees abound that "pear" is likely to have grown into a local name. Dr. Earle went on to say it is true that *pren* in Welsh means "tree" and "timber", but it could hardly have grown into the form of Preen; had this been possible, it would not have escaped Professor Rhys.

The Castle. A castle, that Mr. W. H. St. John Hope, M.A., thinks may have been a mediæval one, appears to have existed at Church Preen; for on the high ground commanding the Apedale Valley, we have a field called "the Castle-yard", and below it another *level* field called "the Butts", and there are many indications to show that some kind of building, probably a castle, existed on this site; even if "the Butts" below, where, doubtless, the archers practised, had not given us corroborative evidence.

"The Castle-yard" looks right across the Apedale Valley to Wenlock Edge, on the other side of which, with still another intervening valley, is Mogg Forest, with its well-known British encampment called "the Ditches".

Doubtless the Preen Castle was placed, like this British encampment, in the securest place for its own safety and for the protection of the adjoining country. I cannot find any allusion whatever in any records to its existence, and

it is quite impossible to hazard an opinion as to the date of its foundation; but probably it must have been in existence much earlier than the time of the Civil War, and at that time had fallen into decay, or otherwise we should have met with some allusion to it. I think the Castle may have been—and probably was—founded by one of the Lords of Holgate, to whom the suzerainty of Preen belonged, and that it was originally built to protect their Manor from marauders. The Castle must have been of considerable extent, judging from the nature of the ground, and, on one side, was strongly protected by a deep ravine. Indeed, it was placed in the strongest position that could be found in the neighbourhood.

Early History.

Were it possible to see the Parish of Preen, as it appeared at different periods in the years long passed, we should see it under many and varied aspects. In the time of the early Britons, situated, as it is, almost in the heart of the country of the Silures, it was doubtless overrun by that ancient people in their last struggles for independence against the might of Rome. And it is probable that Caractacus and his army have often marched over the lands of Preen, for it must not be forgotten that Caradoc, one of the places where tradition says, most probably incorrectly, that he made his last stand, and where he formed his camp, is within four miles of Preen. The Romans, too, have left abundant traces. The well-known "Devil's Causeway" is within a mile, and this passes over a bridge which bears every mark of having

been built by themselves.[1] There are two or more wells (one by the side of the causeway and the other at Holt Preen, under a venerable oak), to this day called "Roman Wells", and at Preen itself a Roman tear-bottle was found, of the more familiar type. What the aspect of the country was in the early days it is difficult to tell; but we may imagine it more or less covered with wood, bounded for miles by the Long Forest, stretching far across Wenlock Edge. Oaks, yews, and hollies still abound, and we may well believe that, under the shade of some of the mighty yews which still remain in the district, the Druids performed their religious rites. In Preen churchyard there is a yew whose gigantic size[2] carries us far back to the past, and it may have been the presence of Druidical worship on this spot that caused it to be selected as the site of a Christian church.

During the Roman and Saxon occupation we know little or nothing of the history of Preen, but the earliest Saxon owner whose name we do know was Edwin, Earl of Mercia, grandson of Leofric, who in 1071 forfeited his possessions to William the Conqueror.

The following most interesting deed, dated A.D. 963, is taken from a twelfth-century Chartulary in the British Museum.

It is a grant by the Saxon King Eadgar to his thegn Wulfric, of lands at Plaish and Aston.

[1] It is remarkable to notice the great similarity between the formation of this Causeway and the streets in Pompeii, and in both cases huge stones are laid; these stones show where the traffic has cut grooves.

[2] See p. 119.

Her his Eastunes boc ⁊ Plesces.

Regnante rege regum qui in tribus personis suæ sanctæ Divinitatis consistit qui angelos necnon et anenias cœlum terramque sine materia creavit . Quapropter ego Eadgar rex tocius Brittaniæ Christi favente gratia sublimatus ad culmina . pro expiatione animæ méæ . dono et libenter concedo . Þulfrice . michi dilecto ministro . quandam telluris particulam . pro suo placabili servitio et humili obedientia . hoc est . VI . mansas in provincia Þrocensetna . in duobus locis quæ sic vocitantur . Plesc . et Eastun . ut habeat sine ulla contradictione omni tempore et jure hereditario possideat . Et quicquid exinde facere voluerit liberam in omnibus potestatem habeat faciendi.

Sunt autem héc predicte rure circumcincte istis terminis.

Ærest on diupuces pæþe on lil sætna ge mære And lang brocæs on eotan ford of eotan forda on þone gretan alr . of þam alre on ðone micclan déc . of þam dice on þa haran dene . of þære haran dene in þone deopan mór and lang midles þæs mores in æslicæs ford . óf æslices forda . and lang mores on hina ge mæra . of hina ge mæro on þa þres dicas . of þam dícan in þæne longan þorn . of þam þorne in þæs dices geát óf þæs dices geáte on þa bradan ræne . of þære bradan rære on mærsic óf mærsice on mær dic . and lang mærdices on piggerdes treo . of piggerdes treo þæt æft on diopuces peþ .

Ðæz æfter synt þa land ge mæro to plesc . Ærest óf plæsc in þone bróc . óf þam brocæ in þæl bricge . óf þæl bricge to þære heh stræte . of þære heh stræte to strea[1]

[1] *Strea Þyllan* = "straw well", probably referring to the "Roman Well" under the big oak tree at the Holt.

pyllan . óf strea pellan to þam litlan dice . óf þam dice to hare dæne . of hare dene tó þám stán hifete[1] . of þam stan hifete úpp . to þam heþe of þam æþe to þam sice and lang sices to mæne lege . of mæne lege to þam broce . of þam brocæ þæt æft in plesc.

Sit etiam hoc meæ concessionis donum liberum ab omni aggravatione secularis servitíí . et ab omni censu preter expeditionis profectione . pontisque constructione et arcis munitione . Si quis vero hoc méæ donationis munimen frangere voluerit sciat se reum omni hora vitæ suæ . nisi prius cum satisfactione pleniter emendaverit . Qui autem conservare voluerit amplificet deus bona ipsius in hoc seculo et in futuro.

Acta est autem hæc donatio . Anno dominicæ incarnationis . DCCCC . LXIII° . Indictione vero . VI° . anno . VII° . regni mei . Híí testes aderant qui hoc consenserunt et subscripserunt et cum signo sanctæ crucis Christi firmaverunt et corroboraverunt.

Ego Eadgar Rex Anglorum et scribere jussi et cum triumphali vexillo sanctæ crucis Christi firmavi et corroboravi.

Ego Dunstan Archiepiscopus hanc donationem consensè et subscripsi .

Ego Oscytel Archiepiscopus cum sigillo sanctæ crucis consensì ⁊ subscripsi.

Ego Kynesige episcopus consensi ⁊ subscripsi.

[1] *Stán hifete* = "stone heap", which possibly indicates the rough ground adjoining what is now known as "the Dry Rough", for the latter has evidently been a quarry.

Ego Ospald episcopus consensi ⁊ subscripsi.
Ego Þulfric episcopus consensi ⁊ subscripsi.
Ego Byrhtelm episcopus consensi ⁊ subscripsi.
Ego Ælfhære Dux.
Ego Ælfhæh Dux.

Ego Æþelstan Dux.	Ego Þulfhelm minister.
Ego Æþelmund Dux.	Ego Eþelsige minister.
Ego Byrhtnoð Dux.	Ego Þærstan minister.
Ego Æþelþine Dux.	Ego Þulfric minister.
Ego Ælfþine minister.	Ego Æþelm minister.

British Museum, Additional MS. 15,350, f. 73 *b*.

TRANSLATION.

Here is the Charter of Eastun and Plesc—The King of Kings reigning who in the three persons of his sacred Godhead subsisteth, who created the angels, souls, heaven and the earth, without matter. Wherefore, I, Eadgar, King of all Britain, having been raised on high by the favouring grace of Christ, do, for the satisfaction of my soul, give and freely grant to Wulfric, my beloved Thegn, a certain parcel of land, for his peaceable service and humble obedience, that is, six hides in the province of Wrocen-setters in two places which are thus called, "Plesc" and "Eastun", that he may hold the same, without any contradiction for all time, and may possess it by hereditary right, And that whatsoever he may wish to do with the same, he may have full power to do. Now these aforesaid lands are surrounded by the following boundaries:—First from Diowuc's path to the boundaries of the Lil-setters, and along the brook to

Eotan ford; from Eotan ford to the great alder; from the alder to the great dyke; from the dyke to the gray dene; from the gray dene to the deep moor, and along the middle of the moor to Æslic's ford; from Æslic's ford and along the moor to the boundary of the same; from the boundary to the three dykes; from the dyke to the long thorn; from the thorn to the dyke's gate; from the dyke's gate to the broad runnel; from the broad runnel to the great furrow; from the great furrow to the great dyke, and along the great dyke to Wiggerd's tree; from Wiggerd's tree then again to Diowuc's path.

Hereafter are the land boundaries to Plesc:—First from Plesc to the brook; from the brook to the wooden bridge; from the wooden bridge to the High Street; from the High Street to Straw Well; from Straw Well to the little dyke; from the dyke to the gray dene; from the gray dene to the stone heap; from the stone heap up to the heath; from the heath to the runnel, and along the runnel to the common lea; from the common lea to the brook; from the brook then again into Plesc.

Moreover, may this gift of my grant be free from all aggravation of secular service, and from all tax, except setting out of expedition, and building of bridge, and fortification of stronghold. But if any one willeth to break the force of my grant, let him know that he shall be guilty every hour of his life, except he first fully make good the same with satisfaction. But he who may be willing to preserve it, may God increase his benefits in this life and in the life to come. This grant was made in the year of our Lord's Incarnation 963, in the Indiction VI, and in the

seventh year of my reign. These witnesses were present, who consented and subscribed to it, and with the sign of the Holy Cross confirmed and corroborated it.

I, Eadgar, King of the Angles, both ordered it to be written, and with the triumphal banner of the Holy Cross confirmed and corroborated it.

I, Dunstan, Archbishop, consented and subscribed to this grant.

I, Oscytel, Archbishop, with the seal of the Holy Cross, consented and subscribed.

I, Kynesige, Bishop, consented and subscribed.

I, Oswald, Bishop, consented and subscribed.

I, Wulfric, Bishop, consented and subscribed.

I, Byrhtelm, Bishop, consented and subscribed.

I, Ælfhære, Duke.	I, Ælfwine, Thegn.
I, Ælfheah, Duke.	I, Wulfhelm, Thegn.
I, Æthelstan, Duke.	I, Ethelsige, Thegn.
I, Æthelmund, Duke.	I, Wærstan, Thegn.
I, Byrhtnodh, Duke.	I, Wulfric, Thegn.
I, Æthelwine, Duke.	I, Æthelm, Thegn.

In *Cartularium Saxonicum*, by Walter de Gray Birch, F.S.A., 1889, vol. iii, p. 355, it is stated that "Plesc" and "Eastun" in the Province of the Wrocensetters, are intended for Plaish near Cardington, and Aston near Lilleshall, in the Wrekin district of Shropshire.

I think Dr. Birch is wrong in fixing "Aston near Lilleshall" as the place meant in the Charter. More probably it was Aston, one of the townships in Munslow parish, and at one time the caput, of which Munslow was

then a member; see *Eyton* (under "Munslow"). This Aston is within five or six miles of Plaish, and it is far more likely to have been held by the same Thegn as Plaish than the other Aston, twenty miles away.

It is, perhaps, rather unsafe to conclude from the words "fortification of stronghold" in the Charter, that any fortification actually existed at that time. Assuming, however, that such was the case, the fortress was probably on the site which was reserved for the castle to which reference is suggested on page 2.

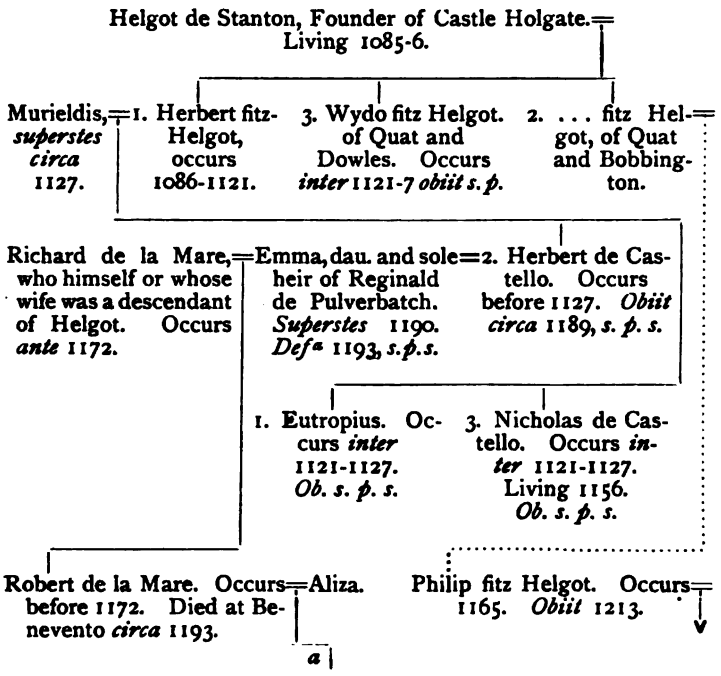
Manorial History.

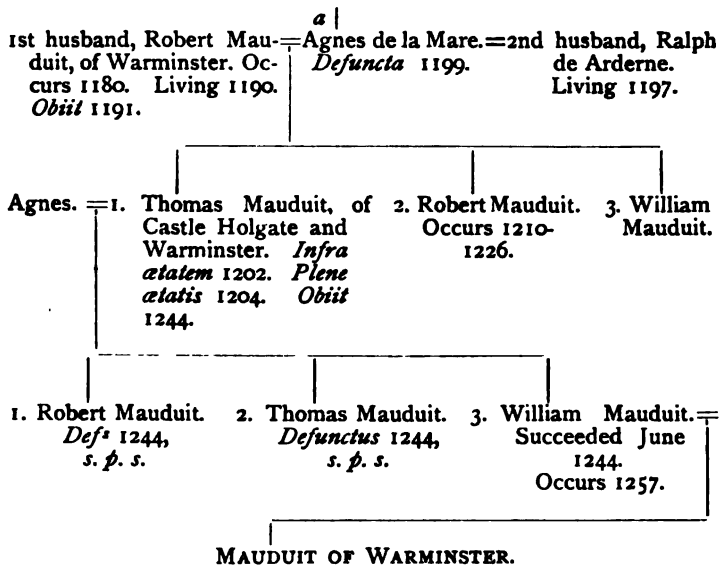
At the time of *Domesday*, Roger de Montgomery, Earl of Shrewsbury, was the suzerain of Preen, under William the Conqueror; and Helgot de Stanton, a Norman, held it under the Earl. Helgot also held Stanton (afterwards Holgate), Belswardine, Harley, and several other manors under the Earl. He founded Castle Holgate in the upper Valley of the Corve. This was one of the earliest of the Shropshire castles. From Helgot the barony of Holgate devolved, through his son Herbert Fitz Helgot, and his grandson Herbert de Castello, to Richard de la Mare, who himself or his wife was a descendant of Helgot de Stanton; then to Robert de la Mare, the son, and Agnes, the granddaughter, who married Robert Mauduit, father of Thomas and grandfather of William Mauduit, who succeeded in June 1244 (*Eyton*, vol. iv. 52, *et seq.*).

This William, about 1258, alienated Castle Holgate and all his Shropshire barony to Richard Plantagenet, Earl of Cornwall, brother of Henry III, and known as "King of

Almagne", or "King of the Romans". The latter who, however, remained suzerain, forthwith conveyed his acquisition to the Order of Knights Templars, who at the time had a house at Lidley Hays (in Cardington parish), and which place had been granted to the Templars by Herbert Fitz Helgot sometime between 1155 and 1160 (*Eyton*, iv, 66 and 67). From Eyton I also extract the following pedigree :—

DESCENT OF THE BARONY OF CASTLE HOLGATE (INCLUDING PREEN).





MAUDUIT OF WARMINSTER.

The interest of the Templars in Holgate ceased in 1284, for the Feodary of this year shows that Robert Burnel, Bishop of Bath and Wells, had become possessed of it either by purchase or otherwise. The forfeiture of the English Templars took place in 1308, and their possessions by an edict of Pope Clement were conveyed to the Knights Hospitallers; but Eyton says it is clear many of the Templars' estates reverted in the first instance to the heirs of the original donors, and this seems to have been the case in reference to Castle Holgate: for in 1284 Robert Burnel held the manor under Edmund, Earl of Cornwall (son of Richard), by service of three knights' fees, the Earl holding of the King. At the time, however, of the Bishop's death in 1292, the Earl of Cornwall's mediate interest had

been done away with and the Bishop held directly from the Crown. From the Bishop, Holgate passed to his nephew and heir Philip, who died in 1294, and was succeeded by his son Edward, who died in 1315.

The Lords of Holgate maintained a seigneurial interest in Preen in the thirteenth century. In 1255 the *Condover Hundred Roll* reports that "the Prior of Wenloc holds Preene Magna of the fief of Sir William Mauduit for two hides".

According to the *Hundred Rolls* of the Special Commissioners of King Edward I, the withdrawal of Great and Little Preen from the Greater Hundred Court (Condover) to Castle Holgate was the act of Earl Richard King of Almagne. The entry is as follows[1] :—

"Com' Salop'.

"Inquisitiones factæ coram Justiciariis itin' antib3 in Com' Salop' a° r' R' Hen' fil' R' Joh'is xxxix° de jurib3 & lib' tatib3 & aliis p'm Rege contingentib3.

"Hundr' de Conedove'.

". . . . . *Magn' Prene & Parv' Prene* debuit sect' ad mag' hundred & subst^a ct'sut p' eund' Ric' Comite Rege Almannie ad Cast^m de Holgod & Ma'g'r' Milicie Templi cotinet sect' ut invenit nesciut a q° te'pe n° quo warento."

[1] In reference to this entry, a correspondent of *Notes and Queries* (First Series, vol. x, p. 347) raised the question as to whether it referred to the parish of Church Preen, but this was before Eyton's work was completed.

A writ of Edward I, dated April 6th, 1301, states that Henry, Prior of Wenlock, had presented his fellow monk, Brother Roger, of Little Hereford, to the custody of the Cell of Preen, vacant by resignation of Brother Richard de Wystanstowe; and that such presentment had been made to the King as guardian of the infant heir of Philip Burnel, inasmuch as the Prior's predecessor had been always wont to present the custodes of Preen to the Lords of Holgate, and that then the said presenter was accustomed to receive the temporalities at the hands of the said Lord, etc.

Let us now examine the account of the manor given in *Domesday*. "The same Helgot holds Preen and Richard holds it of him. Edwin held it (in Saxon times) and was a free man. Here are three hides geldable. The arable land is (sufficient) for three ox-teams. In demesne there is one ox-team and four serfs. Of this land Godebold holds one hide and thereon he has one ox-team, one serf, one villain, and one boor, with a team. The wood here (will fatten) one hundred swine. In King Edward's time the manor was worth twenty shillings per annum: now it is worth ten shillings. He (Helgot) found it waste". Eyton says that by this we must understand that Richard held two hides, and Godebold one hide in Preen. The two hides were afterwards known as Great or Church Preen and the one hide as Preen Girros, Holt Preen, or Little Preen.

Church Preen.—Eyton suggests that the Richard above-mentioned was identical with Richard de Belmeis, who became Viceroy of Shropshire and Bishop of London. He died in 1127, and was buried in Saint Osyth's Priory (in London Diocese), co. Essex (vol. ii, 200). If so, Eyton

thinks there is a strong probability that Belmeis or his heirs granted his or their interest in Great Preen to Wenlock Priory, as the Viceroy was known to have had a special favour for that house.

Eyton says the distance of this manor from Wenlock seems to have occasioned the foundation of a cell at Preen,[1] but of the date of that foundation we are as ignorant as of the period when the monks obtained the estate; but it is clear that a cell existed earlier than 1244, as in that year Robert de Girros (the second) remitted all right which he had in a moiety of the advowson of the cell of Preen. In 1250, the Prior of Wenlock was fined a large sum for assarts in forest lands without license, and among the places named is Preen.

As Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, refounded Wenlock Priory some time between 1071 and 1086, and Richard de Belmeis died in 1127, I think that it is very probable that the Prior of Wenlock obtained Preen and founded Preen Priory within the first fifty years after Earl Roger's foundation of Wenlock. It does not, however, follow that a church did not exist at Preen previous to the foundation of the Priory; on the contrary, the presumption is that there did. Mr. St. John Hope says we may be always sure that where we find a church of the thirteenth century, a Saxon church was previously in existence.

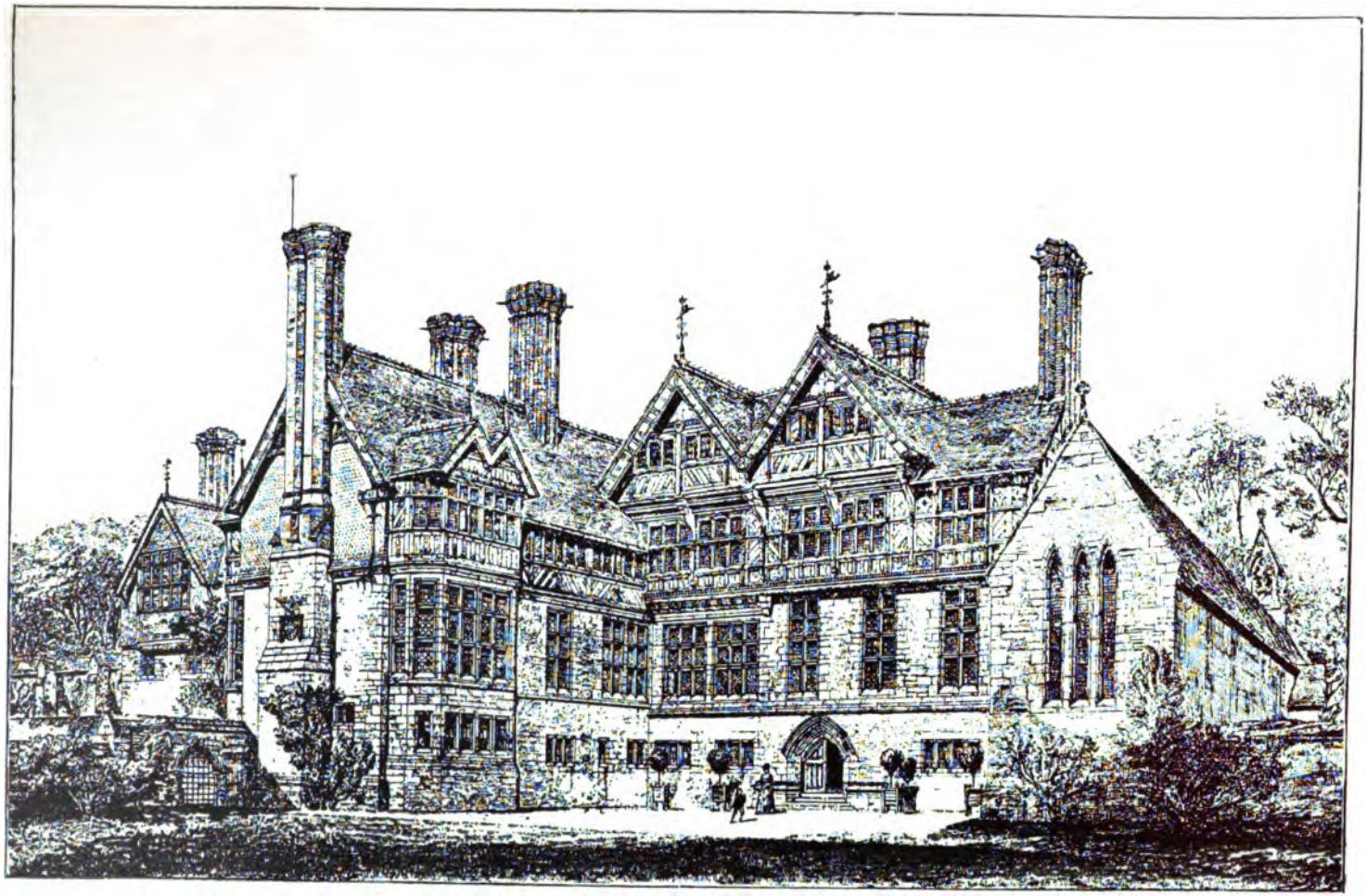
Eyton says the extent of the possessions of the Church of St. Milburgh in the Confessor's reign (1042-1066), can be accurately determined from *Domesday*, and Preen does not

[1] But this applied far more strongly to other manors belonging to the Abbey, and at a much greater distance.

appear among them, neither was it included at the time of *Domesday*, 1080.

Holt Preen.—This manor, consisting of one hide geldable, was held under Helgot by Godebold, who was a priest and one of the three wise clerks named by Ordericus as "Earl Roger's companions and advisers" (see *Eyton*, vol. i, 110). His successor in *ecclesiastical* preferment, after his son Robert, was Richard de Belmeis. Eyton thinks that Godebold's *temporal* heir was a member of the family of de Girros, who were largely enfeoffed in the Barony of Holgate.

In 1194, the *Escheat Roll* includes a sum of sixteen shillings as half a year's *feorm* of Robert de Girros's estate at Preen. Robert de Girros "the second", between 1215 and 1235, made a grant in Preen to Haughmond Abbey of all the land which Adam de Gyros held of the grantor in Preen, with the services of the said Adam and his heirs, viz., seventeen shillings per annum. The grant reserves to Adam all his rights as tenant, and reserves to grantor all those easements in the Bosc of Preen which he retained when he enfeoffed the said Adam. The canons are to pay out of the said rent five shillings yearly to the Chapel of St. Michael in Shrewsbury Castle, in lieu of the grantor, who was liable for the same. In 1232, Peter Cementarius and Matilda his wife acknowledge their gift of a carucate in "Holprene" to Brother Robert, Master of the Templars in England. This, Eyton says, is the first indication of the Knights Templars getting a footing in Holt Preen; the Master and his successors were to hold the premises of the chief lords of the fee for ever. The



R. Norman Shaw, R.A.

PREEN MANOR HOUSE.—NORTH-EAST VIEW.

(*From the "Building News," vol. xxi.,* 100.)

Hundred Roll of 1255 makes Little "Prune" (Preen) to be one hide (its *Domesday* measurement), but it seems that the Wenlock monks, who were called "the Monks of Prune", had added a third of Little Preen to their other estate at Great Preen.

The remaining two-thirds (probably including the Haughmond portion) were held by Henry Girrhos. The manor did not do any suit to county or hundred, the seigneury of William Mauduit, of Castle Holgate, being still existent.

Soon after 1262, "Henry le Gyros" sells to Roger Sprenghose, Lord of Longenolre (Longnor), all the tenement which he had in Holt Preen,[1] with all homages, services and appurtenances (*Eyton*, vi, 226).

Connected with the forfeiture of the Templars, I came across an important entry in the *Dodsworth MS.*, 35, fo. 75 (Rot. 54). The following are two translated extracts:—

"Account of Richard de Harley concerning the outgoings of the manors of Lydeley, Longestaunton and Holprene" (*Holt Preen*); "together with the church of Cardington in the county of Salop, and of the manor of Keel in the county of Stafford, which formerly belonged to the Templars, from Dec. 8th in the fifth year of Edw. II to Michaelmas in the seventh year of the same

[1] This was possibly a field called "Seven Days Math", which, although entirely surrounded by Holt Preen, is in Plaish township, and, until I bought it from Mr. Hunt, was included in the Plaish estate. Perhaps, also, this was the messuage granted by John Borgh, of Holt Preen, to Roger Sprenghose, by deed of 17 Edward II (Hardwick's *Extracts from the Muniments at Apley*, 1814).

King, and from the same feast of St. Michael to the 8th day of January next following, namely, the last three-quarters of the 5th year, the whole of the sixth, and the first quarter of the 7th year, before he might free the said manors and the aforesaid church, together with the corn sown in the land and the ornaments of the aforesaid church, to Brother Henry de Braybroke, attorney of Brother the Abbot of Schwarzenberg, Grand Preceptor of the House of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, *locum tenens* on this side the Mediterranean Sea for the Grand Master of the same Hospital, and Leonard de Tyburlis, Prior of Poissons, Procurator-general of the aforesaid Hospital, in the name of the same Hospital, by the King's writ dated at Westminster, November 18th, in the 7th year" [of his reign].

. . . . . .

"The same accounts for rent paid to the Abbot of Haghemon (*Haughmond*), for certain tenements in Holt-prene in the said manor, which are held of the same Abbot; . . . 17s at the Annunciation and Michaelmas."

The seigneury of Holt Preen remained with Edward Burnell as Lord of Holgate, but the principal tenant interest went like other estates of the Templars to the Knights Hospitallers,[1] as the latter order in 1338 were receiving a total income from Preen of £7 6*s.* 11*d.*, chargeable with

[1] "Templars' Roll, 5 Edw. II, Ric' de Harleg also accounts for 37*s.* 3*d. ob.* ¼ rent of assize of the free tenants and customers of Holt Prene at Lady Day and Michaelmas; also for rent paid to the Abbot of Haghmon for certain lands in Holt Prene in ye said manor holden of ye said Abbot" (*Blakeway MSS.*).

stipends paid to a bailiff and other officers, and a pension to Haughmond Abbey. This must refer to their interest as under-tenants, as Henry le Gyros had sold all his interest as mesne tenant under the Burnells to Roger Sprenghose in 1262; and the previous interest of the Templars in 1232 was only one carucate of land.

The descendant of Edward Burnell, Sir Nicholas Burnell, Knight, died in the year 1371; and in the Feodary then drawn up, Holt Preen is given as a member of Holgate. The following is a translation of the entry (*Alien Priories, Q.R.* No. $\frac{1}{1}$):—

"Extent of the temporalities and lands and tenements of the Priory of Wenloke, in the County of Salop, made at Shrewsbury before William Banastre of Yorton, Escheator of the lord the King in the county of Salop, the 12th day of March, in the 44th year of the reign of King Edward, the third after the Conquest. . . . . Also they (the Jurors) say that there is a certain Priory of Preene in the same county, which is a cell of the said Priory of Wenloke, and it is of the foundation of the ancestors of Nicholas Burnel, Chivaler, to the intent that the Prior of Wenloke shall present three monks of his house of Wenloke to the aforesaid Nicholas Burnel, and the same Nicholas shall choose one monk of those three monks, and he who is chosen by the said Nicholas shall be Prior of the said Priory of Preene. In which Priory of Preene there are divers houses which are worth nothing per annum beyond reprises. And there is there one carucate of land which is worth ten shillings per annum. And there is there of rent of assize of the free tenants ten marks per annum, payable

at the Terms of Saint Michael and the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary by equal portions".

In 1377 Roger Hord and William de Merton, acting as trustees, granted to Fulk Sprenghose, Margaret his wife, and the heirs of Fulk and Margaret, the Manor of Plesch (*Plaish*), etc., and also all lands, rents, etc. of their tenants at Holt Preen (*Eyton*, ii, 354), clearly proving that forty years after 1338, the family of Sprenghose retained an interest in Holt Preen. Eyton, however, goes on to say, in reference to the Haughmond fee, that Adam de Girros or his heirs seem to have conveyed their estate to the Templars of Lydley, who accordingly remained liable for the seventeen shillings rent due from the said Adam to Haughmond Abbey ; and in 1338 a pension was still paid by the Knights Hospitallers for the Templar Estate at Preen, reduced, however, to sixteen shillings. The probability seems to be that both the Templars and the de Girros family had an interest in Holt Preen, and that the Sprenghose family succeeded to the de Girros interest by purchase. The foundation of the cell of Preen within so short a distance as six miles from the parent house is remarkable. As already stated, Eyton thought that the distance alone would account for the foundation, but more probably the cell was built by the grantor (whoever he might be), and given from pious motives and under certain conditions to Wenlock. Another reason would probably have been the inaccessibility of the place, situated as it was in a kind of *terra incognita*, with the almost insuperable barrier of Wenlock Edge between the two houses. As to the number of monks there is no certain evidence, but it seems probable

that there were two or three. Sir George Floyd Duckett, Bart., the learned author of the *Charters and Records among the Archives of the Ancient Abbey of Cluni*, writes to me: "You may be quite sure that there were more monks than the Prior: you may see in Dugdale's *Monasticon* many subordinate small cells named as having a Prior and one monk, *In quo est Prior cum monacho*" One of the witnesses, "William Morryce of Lushcott", at the Hughley Commission, 32 Elizabeth (1590), says "that he hath heard that the said Priory was founded & was given to *three* to be a house of prayer of the Order of St. John the Baptist."[1] Then again, the *Hundred Roll* of 1255 speaks of the *Monks* of Preen, which would lead one to imagine there were more than one.

At the time of the sale of Preen, some three years before the dissolution of Wenlock, we only hear of the Prior; the other monks had probably returned to Wenlock.

Priors. I am unable to give a complete list of the names of the Priors of Preen, the first name I could find being

Henry de Prene, who, in 1244, acted as attorney for the Prior of Wenlock in a suit in which Alice, widow of Hamo, clerk, sued the Prior for her dower (*Eyton*, vol iii, 283). This Henry I suppose to have been the Prior of Preen. One of the witnesses to a deed quoted by Eyton (vol. vi, 223) is Henry de Prene, clerk, possibly the same person. The deed was dated at Preen, on Monday next after the Feast of St. Vincent the Martyr, 24 Edward I.

[1] See p. 79.

Richard de Wystanstowe was Prior in 1301.

Roger of Little Hereford was presented to the custody of the cell on Richard's resignation, April 6th, 1301. After a gap of about two hundred years, one *Cambridge* appears to have been Prior, 1509-16, "for the space of about seven years" (see Hughley Commission; evidence of Thomas Smythe, of Enchmarsh).[1] He was succeeded by—

Don John Castle, Prior, 1516-36. He was the last Prior of Preen, and in his time the Manor of Preen was sold by the Prior of Wenlock to Gyles Coverte, in 1536. The time that Castle is stated to have been Prior is variously given by witnesses at the Hughley Commission. Thomas Smythe, of Enchmarsh, says "for the space of and above 20 yeares". Charles Smythe, of the Pleshe (*Plaish*), says "for the space of ten years together or thereabouts". Thomas Weyver, of Gretton Court, says "for the space of about 30 years". Hugh Samson, alias Cornishe, of Much Wenlock, says "for the space of 40 yeares or thereabouts".

They all, however, agree as to the time when Castle ceased to be Prior. "Don" or "Sir" John Castle was otherwise called "Sir" John Gough, probably because he had red hair, the British word *goch* (Anglice, *Gough*) meaning *red*. He was buried at Much Wenlock, and the following entry was made in the Register: "1544, 13 Sept. Item, the same day and year of our Lord above written there was buried out of Hopton Monachorum Sir John Gough, there at that time curate, otherwise called Sir John Castle, some time monck in the monastery of St. Milburghe

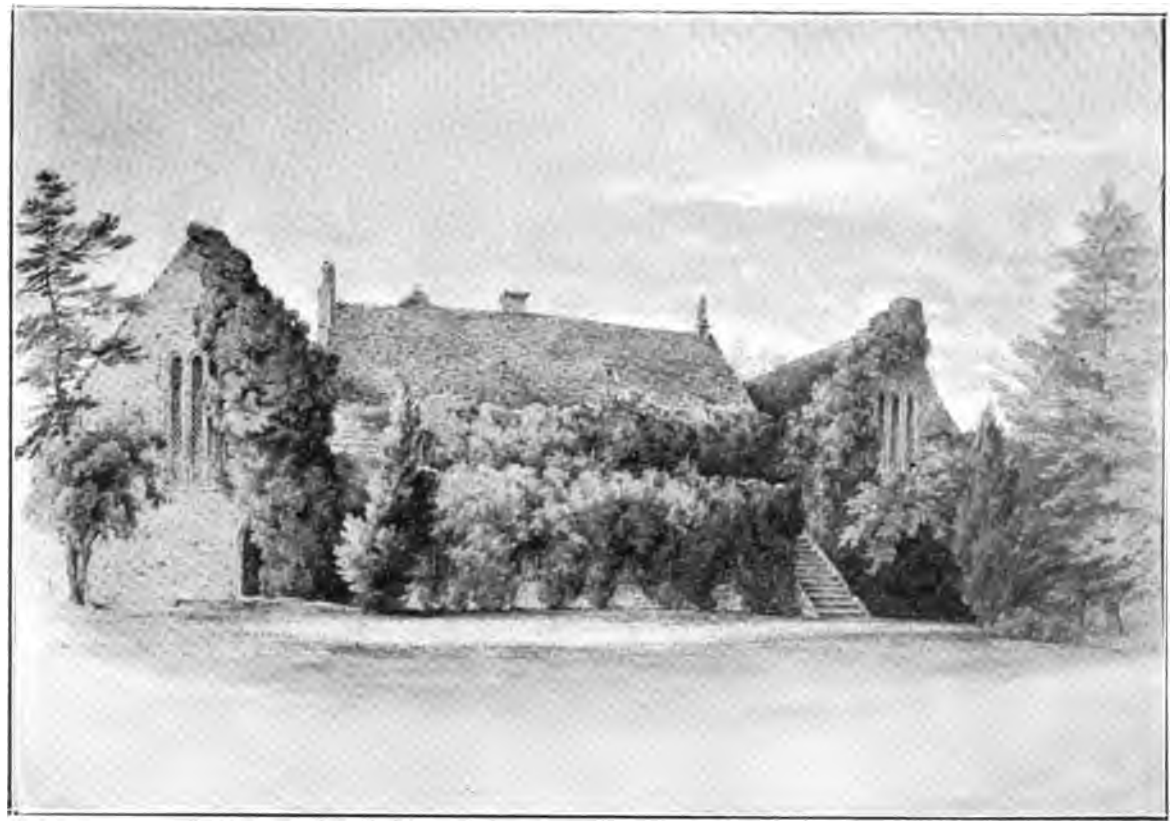
[1] P. 80, *postea*.

here in Moch Wenlock, and Prior of the Cell in Preen, the last Prior that there was, whose bodie is here buried". ("Extracts from the Register of Sir Thomas Butler, Vicar of Much Wenlock in Shropshire," by the Rev. Charles Henry Hartshorne, *Cambrian Journal*, 1861).

Sir John Bayley, who was, it is alleged, for some time called "Mouncke of Preene". I do not think, however, that Sir John Bayley was ever prior or monk of Preen; he was the last Prior of Wenlock. In the evidence taken at the Hughley Commission, John Garrett, of Hughley, says he knows a mansion house "wherein one did dwell who was sometyme Pryor of Prene, and he thinkethe his name that last dwelt there was Bayly".

Sir John Corvehill appears to have succeeded either Don John Castle or Sir John Bayley, for in a marriage that he celebrated in the chapel of Hughley, on February 9th, 1544-5, he is called Curate of Preen. The following is a full copy of the entry:—"1544, 9th Feb., William Corvehill of Preen, and Elizabeth the daughter of John Ball of Burton, within and of this Parish of the Holy Trinity of Moch Wenlock, through licence asked, and instantly by the father and friends of the said woman obtained of me, Sir Thos Butler, Vicar of this Parish of Wenlock aforesaid, were married; wedded at the Chapel of Hughlye, by Sir John Corvehill, Curate of Preen" (*Sir Thomas Butler's Register* above referred to). The following is a copy of the curate's will:—"In Dei Nom', Amen. In the seconde year of Kinge Edward the Sixte, I, John Corfielde, Clark in Prene, hole in mynde & syke in bodye, make my laste will & Testament. Imprimus I bequeathe my sowle unto

Almighty God and to his Mother Mary & all the blessed co'peny of Hevyn; & my bodye to be buryed in the Chaunsell of Prene. I bequethe ii tapurs unto the Rector of Prene or unto Hewely or unto Staunton. Imprimis I bequeath x^{s} to be bestowyd unto poor people, as my executors do thinke beste. Item I bequethe unto Thomas, my brother's sone, Lawrence a heyfur, the half unto Harry & to Besse. It^{m} I bequethe to Margery an hew clothe & a geot copper & a wetinge vessall; ii boordes in the tawrme to Margaret my Sister; a mattress & a cov^{r}let & a bolster unto Rychard my brother; a pryted clothe & a cheyer unto William my brother; a pane, a mashinge vessell, a skelleb, a mytt, ii stands, a kneedynge borde & all that I did p'mise him that he should have had of me & now I c'd not p'forme hit but I gyve unto him a candlesticke a camoes. It^{m} I bequethe to Ann my servant vi kneedings of flour, a hurden metclothe, a flaxen shete, and a lynen shete. It^{m} I bequethe unto John Wilkes sone my blake cowe at calfe, all my hempe or fleechinge of Bakyn — — chesys: unto John Langford a heyfur calfe & his ii shepe & boordes on in the tawrme: unto Margaret my servant ii pyggs, that I had of John Oxenbold, a lynen shete & an old cloke. It^{m} I bequethe to Lawrence Blakeway a heyfur w^{t} a coppe hed: unto Thomas — — my brother a petycote & a coyfe; a table borde w^{t} a forme: unto — my brother my best doublet, a foyder & a salteseller & halfe my hay: unto Richard my brother my beste hate: unto the p'son of Hewely, my best gaberden: unto John Hyggynes of Longeley a piyere of horseclothe: unto Anne my sister my best metclothe. I admyte William to pay Margery vi^{s}.



OLD MANOR HOUSE, PREEN.—PULLED DOWN IN 1870.

(*From an Old Drawing.*)

Unto Willia' & Richard all the hey that is laste. These I do order & make myne Executors, the p'son of Heweley & Thomas my brother & Richard my brother, to see my will fulfyled. The rest of my goodes not bequeathed I bequethe to Willia' my brother. These being witnesses Willia' my brother & Ann my servant."

The above is taken from an office copy obtained from the Principal Probate Registry (Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury), and lent to me by Colonel Corfield (see page 54).

William Person was curate in 1590.

I am unable to supply the names between 1590 and 1680.

John Cole, 1680 to 1685. He was also curate of Hughley, 1679 to 1681.

Henry Wilkes, 1685 to 1700. He was buried at Preen, April 11th, 1700, and his tombstone is in the churchyard.

Jacob Littleford, 1700 to 1725. He was also rector of Hughley, 1708 to 1723.

Thomas Shainton, 1725 to 1746.

John Pugh, 1746 to 1755, when he resigned.

George Podmore, 1755 to 1756. He was nominated by Elizabeth Price, of Shrewsbury, spinster, and licensed March 17th, 1755.

David Rice, B.A., 1756 to 1784. He was nominated by Elizabeth Price, and licensed June 25th, 1756. He was for some time also curate of Longnor, and was succeeded here by—

Joseph Plymley, M.A., Archdeacon of Salop, curate of Longnor and Leebotswood, who had been licensed

May 19th, 1784, on the nomination of Sarah Windsor, of Shrewsbury, widow. "There is no parsonage house, glebe, or tithe of any kind belonging to this church, consequently there has not been any resident minister at Preen. The sole value of the living was £6, paid by the proprietor of the estate, till it was augmented by Queen Anne's bounty, which it has been with three separate sums of £200. Two lots, viz., £400, of this sum, have been expended in the purchase of land at Plasbach, near Oswestry, now let for £18 8*s.* per annum. The Archdeacon held this church for upwards of eight years, and great part of that time served it himself. It required two or three years of its then income to repay the expense of taking possession: he allowed a curate half-a-guinea a Sunday, wishing him to go there every other Sunday at least, and for the summer season it has been so done, but in the depth of winter" . . . . "the badness of roads, coupled with the distance of the church from any resident clergyman, rendered it almost impossible to get it served regularly. The accustomed duty has been once a month, and in the evening (the congregation being more numerous then than in the morning) except on Sacrament Sundays, which are four in the year, at or near to Christmas and Easter".[1] The clergy so assisting the Archdeacon were :—

William Corser (1805 to 1808). "This excellent man came from his residence at Bridgnorth, generally on a Saturday, and passed his Sunday here, benefitting the parish by his example and advice, preaching and charity."

Thomas Farmer Dukes, c. 1841 (*Additional MS.*, 21018), from whom another quotation is given on p. 108.—ED.

(In) "1808 Mr. Corser taking Leighton in Lichfield Diocese, for the benefit of a widow and resided (*residing*) there, he employed *Joseph Morris*, Rector of Tasley, living at Bridgnorth, to serve this church."[1]

John Witts, vicar of Cardington, 1809 to 1814. The Archdeacon succeeded to the Longnor estates and took the name of Corbett, resigning his curacy here in 1814 in favour of his curate at Holgate.

David Cadwallader (1815 to 1822), who was licensed February 1st, 1815, on the nomination of Sarah Windsor, of Shrewsbury. He continued curate until his death.

Gorges Paulin Lowther, B.A. (1822 to 1827) who was licensed July 20th, 1822, on the presentation of John Windsor, of Longford, co. Derby, Esquire, his brother-in-law. His sub-curate was *Morgan Jones*, son of the vicar of Ditton. On Mr. Lowther's resignation he was succeeded by

William Webster (1827 to 1843), licensed August 5th, 1827, having been nominated by William Webster, Esquire. He continued curate until his death.

Robert Armitage (1843 to 1851). He was appointed on the collation of the Bishop of Hereford by reason of lapse. He was also vicar of Easthope. His successor, on the nomination of William Hanbury Sparrow, was

John Wakefield, of St. Edmund's Hall, Oxford (1851 to 1874). He was also rector of Hughley, and resigned this curacy. He died and was buried at Hughley.

Francis Henry Paley, M.A., of Cambridge (1874 to 1881), grandson of Archdeacon Paley, was previously vicar of

[1] See note on p. 26.—ED.

Penn, co. Stafford, and resigned this curacy, to which he had been nominated by me, June 16th, 1881.

Frederic Cooke, B.A., Cambridge, appointed on my nomination in 1881. He resigned July 23rd, 1883.

Edward Foskett Wayne, M.A., Cambridge (1883 to 1891). He was appointed on my nomination in 1883, and resigned in 1891.

Thomas Evans Minshull, of Trinity College, Dublin, who was appointed on my nomination in 1891. After Mr. Wakefield's death, he was also rector of Hughley. He died at St. Malo, May 24th, 1894, in the railway train.

Edward Collett, of St. Mary Hall, Oxford, the present curate of Preen, and rector of Hughley, was appointed on my nomination in 1894.

In the preparation of the preceding list of the incumbents, I have searched the Admission Registers, Licenses, and other records in the Hereford Diocesan Registry. On October 25th, 1826, Mr. Theodore Lane, the then Registrar, wrote to Mr. James Blair, of Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, solicitor, to the effect that he could not find "any entry of nomination to Preen prior to 17 March, 1755" I have received a similar report from Mr. H. C. Beddoe, the present Deputy Registrar, who concludes with these words:—"I have found in many instances there were no early entries of licenses to Perpetual Curacies."

The Cell. That the Cell of Preen was to a certain extent independent of Wenlock seems without doubt. In Pope Nicholas's taxation, 1291, where the income of

the Prior of Wenlock from various sources is given, the income from the temporalities of the cell of Preen (£8 10*s.* 1*d.*) does not appear to be included (*Eyton*, iii p. 245, note).

Church Preen was one of the many districts included in the parish of the Holy Trinity at Wenlock, and it is mentioned as being within the limits of the boundary of the parish by a witness in 1332 (*Eyton*, iii, 268).

I am unable to say to what extent this inclusion affected the Prior of Preen, but he was liable to be punished, and even removed, by the Prior of Wenlock (who was also rector of the church of the Holy Trinity) upon sufficient cause.

Eyton says "that the parish of Church Preen was originally involved in that of Cardington, in which parish Holt Preen still remains". Holt Preen is still a township in Cardington, but, prior to the beginning of the thirteenth century, it was evidently severed from Cardington; and, although in the visitation book of Bishop Westfaling, in 1587, the church is spoken of as annexed to that of Cardington, it is clear the connection was only a nominal one, as in 1590 William Person was curate of Preen. It appears to have been annexed to Cardington at the time of the Reformation, and before 1590 to have reverted to its former *status* of a parish ecclesiastically distinct from Cardington.

Devolution of the Manor.

It is a task attended with no little difficulty to trace the devolution of the Preen Manor from the time that it ceased to be monastic property. In the depositions taken 4 Elizabeth concerning concealed

lands in the county of Salop, it is given in evidence that in 26 Henry 8 (1534), Christopher Hales, Esq., Robert Wrothe, Esq., Richard Crumwell, Esq., and Ralph Sadler, Esq., who I presume were the King's Commissioners, " recovered seizin against John, Prior of the monastery of Saint Milburge of Wenlok of the manor of Peryn, *alias* Preen, with appurtenances and six messuages, six cottages, one dovecote, 120 acres of land, 40 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, and 100 acres of wood, with appurtenances in Peryn, *alias* Preen, who voucheth to warranty Thomas Chapman," etc. (Exchequer, Queen's Remembrancer, Miscellanea, Concealed Lands, $\frac{8.8.4}{10}$, anno 4 Elizabeth. Depositions, Salop). This is corroborated by the original entry on the *De Banco Rolls*, Michaelmas Term, anno 26 Henry VIII, membrane 441.

From this it would appear that four hundred and sixty acres of the Preen estate got into the hands of the King. This may have been the part of the manor held by the Prior of Wenlock or the Prior of Preen in demesne. At the same time "John Dudley, Knight, released all his right in the Manor of Preen, etc., to the aforesaid Christopher, Robert, Richard and Ralph by his writing, bearing date the 10th of December, 26 Henry VIII". Also "The Prior and Convent of Wenlok by writing, bearing date 23rd of December, 26 Henry VIII, have released to the aforesaid Christopher, Robert, Richard, and Ralph all their right in the premises". And lastly, "The Prior of Preen has released to the same by his writing bearing date 29 April, 27 Henry VIII", etc.

These transactions took place at the time of the disso-

lution of the smaller monasteries. (Depositions, Salop, *ut supra.*)

They were not, however, the only transactions in which Preen was concerned, for in 32 Henry VIII we find a final concord, by which Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, sells to the above Sir John Dudley, Knight, the Manor of Acton Burnell, etc., etc., and fifty messuages, three thousand acres of land, five hundred acres of meadow, two thousand acres of pasture, two thousand acres of wood, two thousand acres of furze and heath, and sixty pounds rent (*inter alia*) in "Pryne" for one thousand six hundred pounds. In reference to this, I may remark that the Burnell property was forfeited to the Crown in consequence of Lord Lovel, the heir of the Burnells, of Acton Burnell, adhering to King Richard III. Henry VII granted them to Jasper, Earl of Bedford, for life, who, dying without issue, they reinvested in the Crown. They were then granted by King Henry VIII in his 24th year to the Duke of Norfolk.

In this Burnell property was included the Manor of Castle Holgate, with all the rights that its Lord had in the Manor of Church Preen; and the sixty pounds rent or whatever portion of it was chargeable upon Preen may have been a kind of rent-charge held by the Lords of Holgate, and entirely distinct from the four hundred and sixty acres that Dudley released to the King's Commissioners in 26th Henry VIII. It seems, however, clear that whatever "rights" the Lords of Holgate had in the Priory of Preen were granted by Henry VIII to the Duke of Norfolk.

The following notes from the Manorial Records of Holgate relate to Preen as a member of Holgate Manor[1] :—

"Holgate, to wit. View of Frank Pledge, with Court Baron of Sir John Dudley, Knight, held at the same on the 13th day of May, 30 Henry VIII (1538).

("'The Jury for our Lord the King' include Thomas Crowther and William Parsons, both Preen names).

"Holgate, to wit. The Court of Sir John Dudley, Knight, held at the same before Adam Mytton, esquire, Steward, on the 10th day of June, 31 Henry VIII (1539).

"*Preen* :—The Jury present John Corveld for brewing ale.

"Holgate, to wit. View of Frank Pledge, with Court Leet of Henry Cressett, gentleman, held at the same . . . . 5 Edward VI, before Charles Fox, Steward.

"*Preen* :—The Jury present John Middleton for using abusive words to Thomas Persons; they fine Thomas Hethe 20 pence; they present Richard Edwards for obstructing a public road called 'the Causeway' leading to the parish church of Milborne Stoke; Thomas Hatton for taking fruit from John Bebbe's orchard without leave; Ellis Blakeway for damage; and Richard Beeche for not having a bow and arrows according to law.

"Holgate, to wit. View of Frank Pledge, with Court Baron, held on the 24th day of May, 41 Elizabeth (1599), before Edward Littleton, esquire, Steward.

"*Preen* :—The Jury present William Parsons for selling

[1] From transcripts contained in a manuscript collection at Preen, marked "Shropshire MSS., 1407, &c." (4to), which, according to the water-mark in the paper, was formed in 1832.—ED.

OLD MANOR HOUSE, PREEN.—SUGGESTED RESTORATION.

(*From a Drawing by W. D. Griffin*, 1869.)

bread and ale, and breaking the Assize; John Yeomans for being a common butcher and selling unsavoury victuals; and John Byshopp for raising a 'hue and cry' without just cause".

The preceding entries are translated from the abbreviated Latin in the Preen manuscript.

Sir John Dudley sold a portion of the property in 33 Henry VIII (Final Concord, Salop, Hilary Term) for £600, but the Preen estate is not included in the sale. I think it must have been about this time that the connection between the Burnells of Acton Burnell and Castle Holgate, or their successors, with Preen was severed. Sir John Dudley appears to have been Lord of Holgate from 30 to 35 Henry VIII. The Castle Holgate manor was in the hands of Henry Cressett in 5 Edward VI. I cannot, however, fix the date at which Preen ceased to be a member of Holgate, to which manor it had been attached since the Conquest.

After the dissolution of the greater monasteries, Wenlock was granted by Henry VIII, in the 36th year of his reign, to his physician, Augustine de Augustinis, including certain lands formerly belonging to the Priory, but among these lands there is no mention of Preen or its cell; and it is through a fortunate discovery at the Record Office that I am able to continue the story. According to the report of a commission that was held at Hughley in the 32 Elizabeth (1590), (Exchequer, Queen's Remembrancer, Depositions by Commission, Hilary Term, 32 Elizabeth, No. 1), Preen was a cell of Wenlock Abbey; and in 1533, or three years before the dissolution of Wenlock, the Prior of Wenlock,

either with or without the concurrence of the Prior of Preen, sold the manor to one Gyles Coverte. No doubt this was done by the Prior of Wenlock to avoid the confiscation of Preen with the rest of the Abbey property.

The Hughley Commission appears to have been held by the Concealed Land Commissioners with the object of proving that the Priory of Preen was independent of Wenlock: that, in fact, the Prior of Wenlock had no right to sell it to Coverte. Now, as the sale took place in 1533, and the commission at Hughley was held in 1590, a period of nearly sixty years had elapsed; and as the witnesses summoned had to speak of events that occurred at a period so long antecedent, they were nearly all very old people. Their ages are, indeed, remarkable, and it speaks much for the salubrity of the neighbourhood of Preen. In all, thirty-seven witnesses were examined; of these, eleven were on behalf of the Crown, and sixteen on behalf of the defendant, William Dyckins, the son and heir of Humphrey Dyckins, who, in 1560 (Feet of Fines, Salop, Hilary, 2 Elizabeth), had bought the manor of Preen from Richard Coverte, Esq. (the brother of Gyles Coverte), and Katherine his wife, the probability being that Coverte looked upon his title as an insecure one.[1] The united ages of these twenty-seven witnesses was 2,120 years, or an average of 78½ years each; ten were between 80 and 90, three over 90, and one old lady had reached the patriarchal age of 100. The remaining ten witnesses were the tenants of Preen. I

[1] Giles Coverte, Lord of Preen from 1533 until his death at Southwark, June 23rd, 1557. His brother and heir, Richard Coverte Lord of Preen from 1557 until sale to Humphrey Dyckins, 1560.

have had the whole of the evidence transcribed, and it contains much of great interest.

Several of the witnesses speak of the Prior of Preen being punished by the Prior of Wenlock for misdemeanour; one of them, William Persons, curate of Preen (who seems to have been appointed curate when the Prior left, soon after the sale to Coverte), says: "that he knoweth that the Pryor of Preene for a falte or offence which he had comytted, was sent for by the Pryor of Moche Wenlocke, and was by him punished for his said offence in the chapter house of Moche Wenlocke aforesaid, and was his obedyencer there." Another witness says that he "was there ponished & deteigned under correction in the Sactry by the space of aboute one fortenighte or eighte dayes. And by the Pryor of Moche Wenlocke another Monck of the said house called Sir Richard ffishwycke was appoynted duringe that tyme to serve & say servyce or prayers in his rome at Pryne aforesaid & that the Pryor of Preene was under the obedyence of the Pryor of Moche Wenlocke & called him Master."

It appears that the Prior of Preen thought himself injured by the sale of Preen by the Prior of Wenlock, for one witness says: "After the suppression of the said Priorie & the puttinge out of the said Castle, he the said Don John Castle went to London in companie of this examynates father to complayne of the wronge to him done & obteyned an annuytie of four markes or three pounds by year during his lief, & immedyatelie afterwardes the said Don John was placed in the Priorie of

Dudley & there contynued till the suppression thereof & then came to Moncke Hopton where he lived as curate till he died." The evidence of another witness is curious and interesting: he says: "that he hath hard that the said Priorie was founded & given to three, one Burnell, Cawtrope, then Prior of Wenlocke, & one Geerse, to be a howse of praier of the order of St. John the Baptiste & saith that he sawe the pycture of a heade called the heade of St. John Baptiste in the Church or Priorie of Pryne, where the same contynued & was offered unto untill the dissolucion of the said Priorie, & hath harde by credyble reporte that the said John Castle had a common seale whereupon was engraved the picture of the said St. John where with he sealed the wrytings or leases of such landes as he graunted which were parcell of the said Mannour or Lordship of Pryne."

I may remark, in reference to this image, that St. John the Baptist is the patron Saint of Church Preen, and that at the east end of the church are two corner brackets, upon one of which I imagine the image of St. John stood, and upon the other probably that of the Virgin Mary. The late Rev. Prebendary Mackenzie E. C. Walcott thought that an Ankerhold might have existed at Preen at the close of the thirteenth century, and that a legend relating a vision that befell the recluse, and taken from the *Chronicle of Lanercost*, referred to the Preen Ankerhold.[1]

[1] See Appendix D (p. 137), and p. 111 *postea*.

The evidence given before the Hughley Commission is more fully dealt with at page 70.

I have not been able to discover among the *Assise Rolls* any record of the decision arrived at after the close of the Hughley Commission, but it appears to have been in favour of the Queen, as she by her letters patent in the 33rd year of her reign, that is in 1591, the year after the Commission, "as well in fulfilment of part of a certain warrant by us to our faithful and beloved servant Edward Dyer, Esquire, made, for lands concealed, dated on the second day of May, in the fifteenth year of our reign, as at the humble petition of the said Edward Dyer", etc., "have given and granted", etc., "to William Typper and Robert Dawe of London, gentlemen" . . . . "and also all our Tenement with appurtenances and all our lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Prene, alias Peryne, alias Prine, alias Prime, in the County of Salop, formerly to the Monastery or Priory of Wenlocke and Prene, alias Perine, alias Pryne, alias Pryme, in the said County of Salop, or to either of them belonging or appertaining or lately being parcels of the possessions of the same or either of them. And all our right, estate, interest, claim and demand whatsoever of and in all the same lands, tenements, and hereditaments whatsoever in Prene alias Perine, alias Prine, alias Prime, in the same County of Salop . . . . and of and for the aforesaid tenement and other premises in Preene, alias Peryne, alias Pryne, alias Prime, in the County of Salop, aforesaid, three shillings and four pence". (*Patent Roll,* a° 33 Elizabeth, part 9, membrane 25.)

William Typper and Robert Dawe were two traffickers in monastic property, and as Edward Dyer's interest in Preen was sold to them 33 Elizabeth (1590), the year after the Commission at Hughley, the probability seems to be that a compromise was arranged with William Dyckins, who was at that time in possession of the property, by which he was left in undisturbed possession. It appears that soon after William Dyckins came into possession most of the tenants (who had had long leases, generally for eighty-one years, granted to them by Sir John Castle, the last Prior) arranged to surrender their leases and have new ones granted by William Dyckins for a longer period; and this they did, as they say in their evidence, upon the advice of Judge Leighton, of Plaish, and of Mr. Plowden. Evidently William Dyckins thought to strengthen his title, and the tenants probably wished to make sure that their leases were good, as far as William Dyckins was concerned.

The Manor of Preen remained in the Dyckins family from 1560 to 1749, when the mortgagees of John Dickins (the sixth in descent from Humphrey Dyckins) sold the manor to Miss Elizabeth Price, granddaughter of Thomas Price, of Webscott, in the parish of Middle, by Margaret, sister and co-heir of Thomas Thornes of Shelvoche.

The Dyckins family were of Leaton, in the parish of Bobbington, Co. Stafford, where they had been seated from the time of Henry VI; they were also Lords of Churchill, Co. Worcester. The first member of the family who lived in the Prior's house at Preen appears to have

been Richard Dyckins, the younger brother of Humphrey; as, according to the evidence of one of the witnesses at the Hughley Commission, he was living in the house at that time. Probably the house was occupied by some member of the family continuously after this date, until the time when they ceased to be the owners of Preen.

Thomas Dickins, the great-grandson of Humphrey, lived in the Prior's house, and his father John may have done so, for in Preen Church are his initials: "I. D. 1646."

This Thomas married Margaret Corfield, who is referred to page 48. I am not sure that John, the son of Thomas Dickins, lived at Preen: he probably died in his father's lifetime, but both his two sons, Thomas and Matthew, were buried at Preen.

Thomas, the elder of those two sons, probably lived for some time at Leaton, but Matthew, the younger, certainly lived at Preen, either in the Prior's house or in an old Manor-house described by Mr. Hardwick as a large half-timbered structure, and called "the Hall" of Church Preen, and which stood upon the site of the present farmhouse adjoining Preen Manor. In the *Index Villaris* of "Mr." Adams, of the Inner Temple (London, folio, 1680), "Prene in the Hundred of Condover" is described as having the seat of "one gentleman". This doubtless refers to Matthew Dickins: he was churchwarden in 1686.

It may be that the elder brother, Thomas, was living in the Prior's house at the time of his death in 1710. Matthew had a son named John (churchwarden in 1727), who lived at

Preen, and was there buried 5th December, 1762. John Dickins, son and heir of Thomas (cousin of the above John), was of Leaton and Preen. At the latter place he was buried 19th February, 1760. He married Mary, the daughter of Sir William Fowler, of Harnage Grange. Their only son, Richard, was the last member of the Dickins or Dyckins family that lived at Preen, and he was buried there on 28th October, 1764. The registers of five of his children are to be found at Preen.

So that it appears for seven generations, lasting one hundred and eighty-nine years, the Dyckins family held the Manor of Church Preen.

The following genealogical account, which I have put together as the result of some labour, may be of interest at this point.

Pedigree of DICKINS, compiled from the Records of the Heralds' College, *Parish Registers*, *Inquisitions post-mortem*, and other evidences.

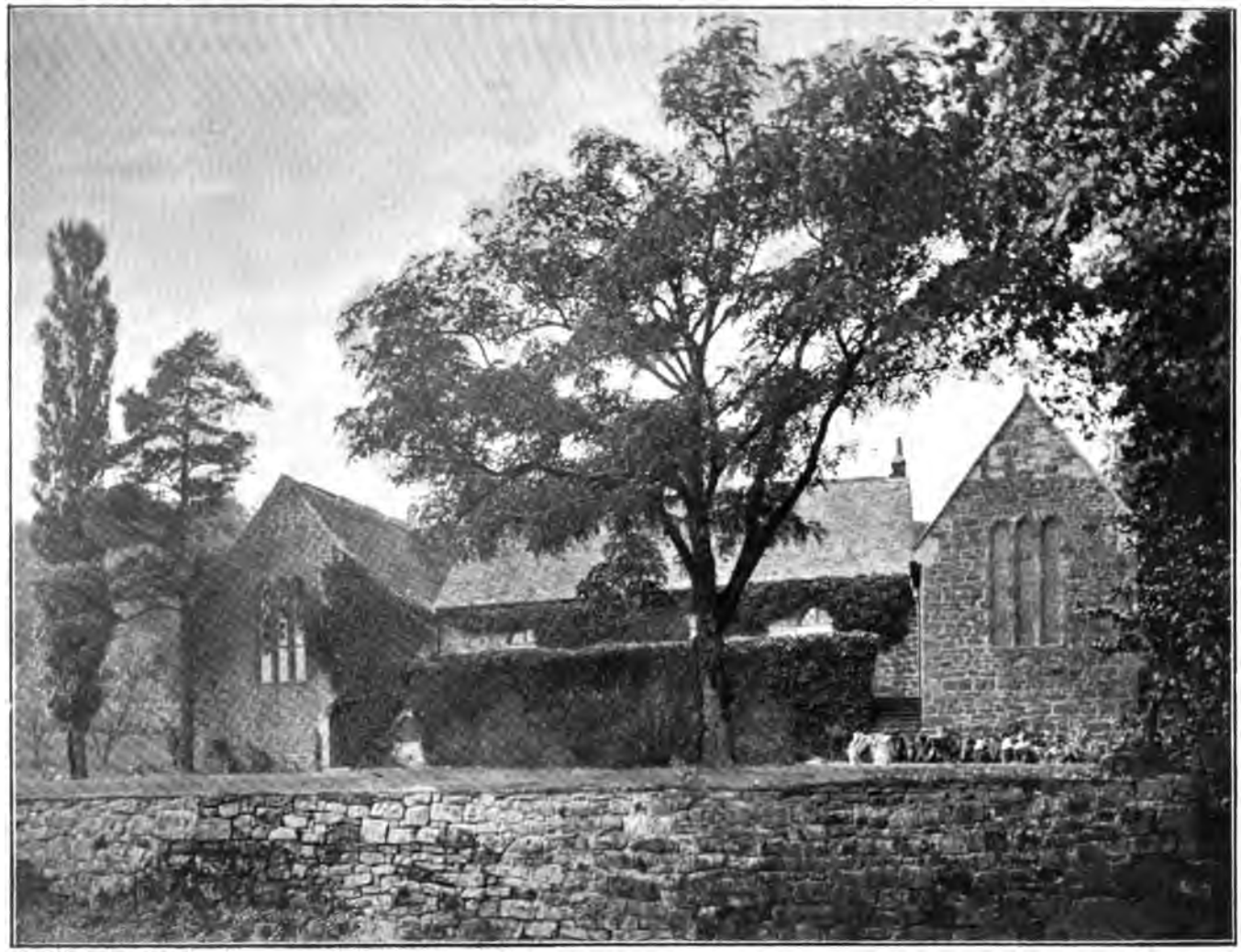
Arms: Ermine, a cross flory *sable*.

WILLIAM DYCKINS, of Bobbington, Staffordshire, was father of—

THOMAS DYCKINS, of Bobbington, who was Lord of Churchill, Worcestershire, in the time of Henry VI. He had issue two sons:

I. John, his heir.

II. Thomas, whose son Richard was father of Thomas of Morehall, Staffordshire. The latter, by Edith his wife, daughter of Thomas Corbin of Morehall,



OLD MANOR HOUSE, PREEN.—PULLED DOWN IN 1870.

(*From a Photograph.*)

and his wife, who was a Miss More, of Morehall, had a daughter Alice, who became heir to her mother. Alice Dickins married Matthew Moreton, of Engleton, Staffordshire, and had issue—

Edward Moreton, living 1583.
Alice, *m.* her third cousin once-removed, William Dickins, *ut postea.*
Isabel, *m.* John Eggington, of Rodbaston, Penkridge.
Constance.
Mary.
Margaret.

The eldest son—

JOHN DYCKINS, of Bobbington, *m.* Eleanor Blount, and was father of—

HUGH DYCKINS, of Bobbington, *m.* Joan, dau. of Humphrey Lea, of Enville, and had issue three sons—

I. HUMPHREY, his heir.
II. Thomas William.
III. Richard, of Church Preen, living 1590.

The eldest son—

HUMPHREY DYCKINS, of Bobbington, by Elizabeth his wife was father of—

WILLIAM, the next holder of the Bobbington property.

He bought the manor of Church Preen in 1560 from Richard Coverte, brother and heir of Giles Coverte, who died June 23rd, 1559 (Inquisition *post-mortem* taken at Southwark). The son of Humphrey,

WILLIAM DICKINS, of Bobbington, Lord of the Manor of Churchill, *m.*, as already stated (p. 41), Alice Moreton, and had a son John. He was living in 1503, and was succeeded by his said son—

JOHN DICKINS, of Bobbington, and of Newlands in the parish of Much Malvern; *b.* in the autumn of 1578; *m.* first, Elizabeth Mackworth, of Betton Grange, Shropshire, and had issue—

I. THOMAS, his heir.
II. Richard, *s. p.*
III. Francis, died young.
I. Margery, wife of Thomas Perry, of Wergs, in the parish of Tettenhall, Staffordshire.

By his second wife, Jane, dau. of Edmund Braddock, of Adbaston, Staffordshire, he had issue—

IV. John, *d.* 1661, having *m.* Jane, dau. of Francis Woodhouse, of the Woodhouses, Wombourne, Staffordshire, by whom he had issue—

1. Tomyns, of Morse, Staffordshire, who entered the family pedigree and arms at the *Heralds' Visitation*, April 10th, 1663, being then aged 40. He had previously *m.* Mary, dau. of John Corbyn, of Aymour, Worcestershire, and had issue Tomyns, *b.* 1661; John; Mary, *b.* 1654; Elizabeth; Anne, and Jane.
2. Edward, } citizens of London.
3. John, }

I. Elizabeth, *m.*, first, Thomas Perry of Wergs

(*cf.* the marriage of her half-aunt Margery), and secondly, Nathaniel Hilton, citizen of London.

V. Gerard, } citizens of London.
VI. William, }

II. Elizabeth, *m.* Herbert Walwyn, of Newland, Worcestershire.

John Dickins died in April, 1656, and was buried in the "lower part of the choir" of Great Malvern church, on the 25th of that month. It is probable that "I.D. 1646", on the reading-desk of Preen Church, refers to him (see p. 39). He was succeeded by—

THOMAS DICKINS, of Leaton (which property eventually passed to the Moseleys), in the parish of Bobbington, who at the *Heralds' Visitation*, April 10th, 1663, was aged 65. He was twice *m.*; first to Margaret, dau. of William Corfield, of Church Preen (see p. 48), and had issue by her—

I. JOHN.
I. Elizabeth, *m.* Roger Bird, of Ipsley, Warwickshire.
II. Margaret, *m.* John Lacy, of Feckenham, Worcestershire.
III. Alice, *m.* John Smallwood, of Middlewich, Cheshire.

He *m.* secondly, Elizabeth, dau. of Robert Walwyn, of Newland, and had issue—

II. Thomas, *b.* 1637.
III. Herbert.
IV. Robert.
V. William.

IV. Anne, *m.* John Pratt, of Tuckhill, Staffordshire.
V. Rachel, *m.* Henry Walwyn, of Colwall, Herefordshire.
VI. Elizabeth, *m.* William Reade, of Manley, Worcestershire.
VII. Jane, died young.

The eldest son—

JOHN DICKINS, of Church Preen, *b.* 1631; *m.* as a minor, *circa* 1648, Sarah, dau. of Samuel More, of Linley, Shropshire, and had issue by her—

I. THOMAS, his heir.
II. Matthew, of Church Preen, churchwarden in 1686, *b.* after 1663, and was buried at Preen, May 27th, 1752, leaving by Mary his wife—
    1. John, of Church Preen, churchwarden in 1727; *b.* Dec. 31st, 1695; bapt. at Preen, Jan. 9th, 1696; *m.* there Nov. 5th, 1722, Ann Stary (who was buried at Preen in the "desk pew", May 26th, 1773, aged 83). He was also buried there, Dec. 5th, 1762.
    2. Matthew, bapt. at Preen, March 22nd, 1700; bur. there, May 27th, 1752.
    1. Elizabeth, bapt. there Sept. 19th, 1704, and buried Sept. 22nd, 1704.
    2. Mary (twin with Elizabeth), bapt. on the same day, and buried, Oct. 2nd, 1704.
    3. Mary, bapt. at Preen, Jan. 4th, 1706; *m.* there, May 2nd, 1736, to John Bollen, of Preen, and afterwards of Brockton, in Stanton Long (who was buried in a vault

in Preen Church, May 29th, 1782, aged 77); buried in the vault in which her husband was afterwards buried, May 2nd, 1773.

4. Ann, bapt. at Preen, June 9th, 1709; *m.* there, April 21st, 1730, to John Acton, of Astley Abbots, and had a dau. Hannah, bapt. at Preen, March 9th, 1730.

I. Elizabeth, aged 14, at the 1663 *Visitation.*

He *d.* in 1679, probably in his father's lifetime. His will, proved in the same year, names John Turton, of Alderhayes, Robert More, of Cheapside, and his wife, as executors.[1] John Dickins's eldest son,

THOMAS DICKINS, of Leaton, *b.* 1653, borrowed £400 in 1679, and charged his estates with £600 for his younger son, Thomas. He was buried at Preen, December 21st, 1710, leaving issue by Mary his wife,

I. JOHN, his heir.

II. THOMAS, of Leebotswood, *m.* at Preen, May 29th, 1728, Mary Martin, of that parish.

The eldest son—

JOHN DICKINS, of Leaton and Preen, whose mortgagees sold Preen July 30th, 1749, to Elizabeth Price (see p. 54). In 1709 he owed £1,056 to Joseph Girder, Serjeant-at-Law. He *m.* Mary, dau. of Sir William Fowler, of Harnage Grange, having settled an annuity of £150 upon

[1] A John Dickins was buried at Preen, May 5th, 1718, but I do not know to whom the entry refers.

her. He was buried at Preen, February 19th, 1760, having had issue a son and three daughters—

I. RICHARD, his heir.
I. Mary, *m.* John Moreton, of St. Giles, weaver.
II. Hester, *m.* Mr. Wilson.
III. Diana, *m.* Francis Jones, of Lindion, Denbighshire.

The only son—

RICHARD DICKINS, sometime of Preen, was buried there October 28th, 1764, leaving, by Ann his wife, two sons and four daughters—

I. JOHN, his heir.
II. Fowler, bapt. at Preen, June 23rd, 1749.
I. Ann, bapt. there, September 14th, 1746.
II. Elinor, buried there, March 31st, 1751.
III. Ursula, bapt. there, June 26th, 1751.
IV. Mary, *m.* there, July 30th, 1790, John Mansell, of Much Wenlock (who died there and was buried at Preen, April 20th, 1784). She was also buried at Preen, July 30th, 1790.

The elder son—

JOHN DICKINS, born in 1737, was father of JOHN DICKINS, Captain R.N., of Woodford Grange, Staffordshire; *b.* 1772, *m.* twice and had many children, one of whom was—

ROBERT ARCHIBALD DICKINS, of Woodford Grange, a Major in the Yeomanry, who *d.* at an advanced age in 1893, and was buried at Trysall, having had an only son Bramah, who *d.* unmarried in his father's lifetime.

MARGARET CORFIELD, who married Thomas Dickins in or about 1630, was a member of an old Shropshire family, a branch of which had for several generations been tenants at Preen under the Prior.

They traced their descent from one Edward, who held Corve in Stanton Long, in Corve Dale, in the twelfth century; his son, Ralph Fitz-Edward, held Corve in 1180, and from him presumably descended Richard de Corfielde, Lord of the Manor of Longville, who married Abigail Lutwyche.

The eldest son of the said Richard de Corfielde was John, of Chatwall, who was buried at Cardington in June, 1561; the youngest son, Thomas, was of Much Wenlock: he was the father of three sons, Sir William Corvehill, "Priest of the service of our Blessed Lady St. Mary within the Church of the Holy Trinity" at Much Wenlock;[1]

[1] Copy of entry of Sir William Corvehill's burial in *Wenlock Register:* —"26 May, 1546. Here was buryed out of the Strete called Mardfold out of the two Tenements next unto Sancte Owens Well, on the same side of the well, the body of Sr Willm Corvehill, Preist of the Service of Or blessed Lady St Marie, within the Churche of the holy Trinite &c. which two hows belo'ging to the said S'vice he had i' his occupacion, wt their apperten' and parte of his wages, which was viij markes, and the said hows in an overplus: whose body was buryed in the chancell of our blessed Lady before th' altr under the Ston in the myddle of the said altare, upon the left hande as ye treade and stand on the heighest steppe of the thre, befor the said altare; whose fete streche forth undr the said altare to the wall in the Eest of th' altare, the body ther lying wtin the Erth in a tomb of lyme and ston which which he caused to be made for himselfe for that intent; after the reryng & buldyng of the new Ruff of the said chansell, which rering, framyng & new reparyng of th' altare & chancell was don' throw the councill of the sd Sr Wm Corvehill, who was excellently & singularly

a secular priest called Sir Andrew, who died at Croydon, and Dominus John, monk in the monastery at Wenlock.

To return to the eldest son of Richard, John Corfield: he was also of Longville and Chatwall, and in 1505 received a grant of lease of lands in Preen for eighty-one years from "Sir" John Castle, the last Prior of Preen. He was father of five sons :—

I. Thomas, of Chatwall.

II. William, of Church Preen, married Elizabeth Ball, of Bourton, and was father of Margaret, married Thomas Dickins, as stated on pp. 43 and 47. His will, dated December 28th, 17 Elizabeth, 1574, is as follows :—

"I, Willm̃ Corfeld of Prene in the Countie of Salop and Dioces of Heref., sick in bodie but in perfitt remembrance in mynde, thankes be given to Allmightie God, doe make this my last Will & testament in manner and forme as

experte in dyv'se of the vij liberal sciences & especially in geometre, not greatly by speculac'on, but by experience; and few or non of handyecrafte but that he had a very gud insight in them, as the making of Organs, of a clocke and chimes, an in kerving, in Masonrie, and weving of Silke, an in peynting; and noe instrumente of musike beyng but that he coulde mende it, and many gud ghifts the man had, and a very pacient man, and full honeste in his conversac'on and lyv'ng; borne here, in this borowe of Moche Wenlok & somtyme moncke in the monastrie of St Mylb'ge here. Two brethren he had. One called Dominus John, Monke in the said monastrie, and a Secular prieste called Sr Andrew Corvehill who dyed at Croydon beside London, on whose soule & all Christian soules Almighty God have m'cy, Ame'. All this contrey hath a great losse of the death of the sd Sir Willm Corvehill for he was a gud Bell founder & a makr of the frame for bells."—(*Sir Thomas Butler's Register*, referred to on p. 23.)

hereafter ſolloweth. ffirst & principallie I comend my soule to Allmightie God my Maker and redeamer & my bodie to be buried in the parrishe church of Preene at my last end. Item I giue & bequeath to the Cathedrall Churche of Heref^d^ vj^d^. Item I giue & bequeath to the people that to my parrishe Churche will come at the daie of my buriall, my funerall being ended, everie one of them . . . . pence apece. Item my will and entent is and I giue & bequeath to Elizabeth my wief my whole Tenement, with th' appurtenances, and all therunto belonging, and all my goodes and cattell mouable and vnmoveable to rear and kepe my children, vntill they come to the full age of Twentie and one yeres, with sufficient meat, drinke and clothe as is mete for their behavioure, as longe as she kepeth hir widowhod, and if so be that my foresaid wief list to marie at anye tyme, my will ys that my sone Will'm shall have my foresaid tenement with all meadowes, leasues, pastures with all thereunto belonging, as longe as the yeres endure yf he wilbe rvled and governed by his mother and his frendes. Yf he will not be ruled by his mother and his frendes, my will ys that it shall remaine to one of his brethren which pleaseth his mother best. Also my will is that if Willm my foresaid sonne doe not enter of my foresaid tenement w^th^in the space of tenne yeres, Then I giue and bequeath to Willm my sone Twentie poundes ; yf he doe enter within tenne yeres, my will ys that his parte do remaine amongest his fellowes. Also my will is that if it chance Elizabeth my wief to decease or marrie before my foresaid children come to their full age of xxj^ti^ yeres, Then Willm my sone to finde my foresaid children sufficient

meat, drink and cloth, accordinge as they had in tymes past, vntill they come to the age as is aforesaid. Item my will and entent is and I giue and bequeath to John my sone Twentie poundes yf he wilbe ruled by his mother and his frendes: yf he will not, to have but five poundes. Item I giue and bequeath to Richard my sonne Twentie poundes. Item I giue and bequeath to Thomas my sone xxvj^{li}. Item I giue and bequeath to ffrauncis my sonne Twentie poundes. Item I giue and bequeath to Jasper my sone Twentie poundes. Item I giue and bequeath to Elizabeth my daughter ffourtie mearkes yf she wilbe ruled by hir mother. Also my will and entent is that my foresaid children shall haue everie one his parte when he cometh to the age of Twentie and one yeres. Also my will is that if anye of my foresaid children chaunce to decease before they come to their age as is aforesaid, my will is that his or her parte to remaine to and amongest their fellowes. Item I giue and bequeath to everie godchild of myne iiij^{d}. Item I giue and bequeath to everie brother's child and syster's of myne iiij^{d}. Item I giue and bequeath to Margerie Myddleton my seruant maide a twoe yere olde heyfer and the Croppe of a Cowe. Item I giue to Alice my servant a yere old shepe. Item I giue and bequeath to my sone in lawe Humfrey James' children a twoe yere olde heyfer to be sett forward for them.

"Debts owinge vnto the foresaid Willm̃ Corfeld dew to be paid at this tyme, A thousand five hundred seventie fower.

"Imprimis Richard Lee, of Longley, esquier, doth owe

vnto me the some of Tenne poundes, wch I lent him oute of my purse. Item Willm̃ Bickfork, of the parrishe of Hampton, doth owe vnto me fouer poundes wanting xvj^{d} for certein cattell which I soulde him. Item Wm Wollaston, of Trescot graunge, doth owe vnto me iiij^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d} for certeine cattell whiche I soulde him. Item Richard Baule, of Burton, doth owe vnto me xl^{s}., which I lent him oute of my purse. Item Thomas Wollastone doth owe vnto me xx^{s} for a horse which I soulde vnto Thomas Dod, he being suertie. Item Humfrey James doth owe vnto me xj^{li} ij^{s} which I lent him oute of my purse. Item John ffarmer, of Broone, doth owe vnto me xl^{s} for a cowe and a calfe. Item Hugh Hardwick, of Pattenham, doth owe vnto me xx^{s} I lent him oute of my purse. Item Willm̃ Pidge, of Plashe, doth owe vnto me Twentie shillinges which I lent him owte of my purse. Item John Mydleton, of Preene, doth owe vnto me Twentie shillinges, which I lent him oute of my purse. Item iiij heyfors of myne in the custodie of David lloyds, in the parrish of Manava, which I sett to him the first milk and calf. Item my will and entent is and I doe make and constitute Elizabeth my wief my true and laufull executrix of this my last Will conteyned, to see me honestlie brought home, my funerall discharged, my debtes paid and Legacies paid which I have giuen and distributed to my foresaid children.

"Theis being witnesses, John Pinches th'elder, Willm̃ Pidge, and John Pinches the yonger, with others."

Proved on August 25th, 1575, by the representative of the said Elizabeth, the relict and executrix.

(From the Prerogative Court of the Archbishop of Canterbury, 33 "Pickering".)

III. "Sir" John, vicar of Preen, whose will, in 1548, directs that he shall be buried in the chancel of the church (see p. 23).

IV. Richard, and

V. Ralph.

The second son, William (page 48), was father of five sons:—1, William; 2, Thomas; 3, John; 4, Francis; and 5, Jasper; the first two of whom, with their widowed mother, Elizabeth Corfield, gave evidence at the Hughley Commission in 1590. They were tenants, under an original lease, granted about 1510 for eighty-one years, to their grandfather, John Corfield. The third son of William Corfield, John, was of Hughley, and he left the following will:—

"In Dei nom' Amen, ij^ndo^ die May anno dom' 1556. I John Corfylde of Hughlee within the Dioces of Hereford being of wholle mynde and in good and p'fytte remembrance, laud and prayse be unto Almyghtie God, make and ordaine thys my present testam^t^ containing my last wylle in man'r and forme folowing that ys to say; Fyrst I comende my soule unto Almyghtie God my Maker and redeemer & my body to be buried in the church of Moche Wenlocke.

"Item I give & bequethe to the Mother Church of Hereford vj^d^. Item I give and bequethe to William my son (*my*) best pane & pewter dyshe. Item, I give and bequethe to my sone Richard my second pane and pewter dyshe.

Item I bequethe to . . . . a pewter dyshe and to Alice Taylor a pewter dyshe.

"Item I give and bequethe to Thom' Taylor sone to Thomas Taylor an Heyffer of my [*cow*]. Item I give and bequethe to Elizabeth Corfylde iij^{s} iiij^{d}. Item I give and bequethe to the church of Hughlee xvj^{d} a torch and two tapers. Item my wyll ys that I be brought honestlye home. And the residue of all my goodes not afore bequethed I put to the discretyon of Margaret my wyfe halfe takynge during her life and of this my present testament I make and ordene Thomas Corfylde and John Pinchesse myne ex[*ecutors*] this my last wyll and testament executed accordinglye.

"And I [*hereby*] revoke and adnulle all and every other former testaments, wylles, bequestes, and executors by me in anye wayse before thys time made and named wylled and bequethed. These being Wytnesses Sir Roger (*Stringer*), p'son there, Thom' Heynes, Thomas Taylor, with others".

(Taken from an office copy transcribed from the original in the District Probate Registry at Hereford, and lent to me by Colonel Corfield.)

The Corfields remained at Hughley for two centuries; indeed, some of the family are still to be found lingering in the neighbourhood.

At Preen, the descendants of Thomas and William, the first and second sons of John Corfield of Longville and Chatwall, remained within the last fifty or sixty years.

In the *Heralds' Visitation of Surrey*, made in the year 1662, is the following pedigree of the descendants of

Richard Corfield, of Longville, a cadet branch of this family:—

Richard Corfeild, of Longfield, in Com' Salop. = Frances, da. of Will: Doughty, of Bourton, in Com' Salop.

George Corfeild, of St Saviors, Southwark, in Com' Surry gt = Katherine, da. of Will: Smith, of Great Sanford, in Essex.

John, son and heire, æt. 18, Anº 1662.

There are no arms registered with this pedigree; indeed, it was not until the 22nd of September, 1897, that the armorial bearings long used by the Corfields were officially allowed. In the "Patent of Confirmation" then issued to Colonel Frederick Channer Corfield, V.D., of Ormonde Fields, Codnor, and of Cardington, Shropshire, they are thus blazoned:—

"Per chevron *gules* and *argent*, two escocheons in chief, of the last, each charged with a heart of the first, and an escocheon in base *ermine*, thereon a like heart. *Crest*:—In front of a dexter cubit arm erect, holding two palm branches in saltire slipped proper, a heart *gules*."

Motto:—"Serva Fidem".

Elizabeth Price, who succeeded Richard Dickins (or more probably his father, John Dickins, of Leaton and Preen—see pages 45-6)—held the manor until her death in 1759, when she bequeathed it to her sister, Sarah, the wife of John Windsor, of Harnage Grange, which latter place he had previously purchased from the Fowlers. John Windsor had been a solicitor in Shrewsbury. At the death (1794)

of Sarah Windsor, then of Shrewsbury, at the great age of ninety-one, the manor passed to her son, Edward Charles Windsor, and his two unmarried sisters, Sarah and Elizabeth, in equal shares. Eventually the elder sister, Sarah, became sole owner, and at her death, on the 26th February, 1815, was succeeded by her nephew, Edward Charles Windsor, a captain in the army; but he, having been killed at the battle of Waterloo, the estate passed to his only brother, John Windsor, who lived in the Prior's house until 1826, when he sold the manor to William Webster, of Ashbourne, whose daughter Ellen he had married.

In the Windsor family, including the time that Elizabeth Price held it, the Manor remained for a period of seventy-seven years.

Mr. Webster's eldest son, the Rev. William Webster, was perpetual curate of Preen, and lived at the old house, but he never was owner of the property, as he died away from Preen a few months before his father. He left two sons, William Granville Webster, who died in 1846, and Frederick Taylor Webster, both of whom succeeded to the estate for a short time—but only for a short time—as in 1848 Frederick Taylor Webster sold the Manor to William Hanbury Sparrow, of Penn, Staffordshire, upon whose death, in 1867, it passed by the terms of his will to his youngest son, the writer.

In the Webster family Preen remained twenty-two years only.

It is to be noted that in 1820 John Windsor sold[1] a

[1] He tried to sell the Manor as well. The auctioneer's advertisement is given in Appendix B at page 131.

portion of the estate, consisting of an old Manor-house and two hundred and eighty acres of land to his tenant, Samuel Minton. This portion was bought back again from Mr. Minton's son in 1873, and restored to the estate after being in different hands for some fifty years.

Sparrow Pedigree.

At this juncture I introduce the pedigree of my own family, for which I offer my apologies to the reader. As, however, I have devoted so much time and attention to the subject, I am naturally anxious to place the result of my labour on record. In the actual pedigree I have purposely omitted all reference to collaterals prior to the connection of the Sparrow family with Preen.

First, as to the origin of the name of Sparrow. It appears that at the time of *Domesday* the Staffordshire manor of Weston, in the hundred of Pirehill, was held by a "Sperri". According to the view of Mr. John Amphlett, of Clent (February 1890), "he appears to have been transplanted to Weston from Lincolnshire; or at least a 'Sperri' held land in that county in 'Torp' and 'Helmeswelle'. I believe some few favoured Saxons were so transplanted by William I, instead of being entirely dispersed". Mr. Amphlett goes on to say: "I know nothing more of the said 'Sperri', and of course it is mere conjecture that the Sparrys of Clent descend from this 'Sperri'. Still, very early in Staffordshire a crop of Sparrys is found, who clearly must have got their name from some one with this appellation; and, curiously enough, in the east of England, in Norfolk and Suffolk, if not in Lincolnshire, there are families of

PREEN MANOR HOUSE.—VIEW OF SOUTH ANGLE.

(*From a Painting by Miss Edith Sparrow.*)

Sparrows. I should certainly think that Sparry, Sparrow, Sparroy, and all the rest of the variations, were derived from a like source; not necessarily from the same man, indeed—unless we assume that there was only one 'Sperri'—but from the same name. Spelling goes for very little in genealogy; each scribe suited his own fancy in the combination of letters he used to denote the sound that fell on his ears; and one or other of these combinations survived here or there from some chance circumstance. That it contained in itself anything approaching correctness would probably have very little to do with its chance of survival."

I quite coincide with the above remarks of Mr. Amphlett. The Sparrow family still exists in Essex, and the well-known house at Ipswich called the "Sparrow's Nest", built in 1567 by Robert Sparrowe,[1] still remains: no doubt all the Sparrows found in the south of England spring from this branch. In the fourteenth century there were Sparrys in Warwickshire. John Sparry, jun., of Warwick, and Lucy his wife, granted lands to Thomas de Wolverdington in 1346; and in 1400 or thereabouts, John Sparry and Edith his wife were members of the ancient Guild of Coventry (see "Warwickshire Charters" in British Museum *Harleian MS.* 7505).

In the *Warwickshire Visitation*, 1619, a pedigree is given of a family of Sparry, at Broadhedley, in the parish of Northfield.

I think it most probable that our branch of the Sparrow family sprang from the Weston "Sperri", who might also, as Mr. Amphlett says, have been the ancestor of the

[1] Robert Sparrowe was several times bailiff of Ipswich.

Sparrys of Clent. I have not been able to trace the connection of the two branches, but it seems to me that our ancestor, Thomas Sparry, of Audley, whose will was proved in 1549, might have been either a brother or cousin of Roger Sparry, of Clent, whose will was proved at Worcester in 1548. This Roger had a grandson of the same name, and curiously enough Thomas Sparry's brother, James Sparrio, had also a son and grandson, both named Roger. Roger is a somewhat uncommon name, and it seems strange that there should have been Roger Sparrys living at the same time in the north and south of the county of Stafford, unless they were members of the same family.

In the genealogical account of my family which follows, I have adopted a view which is not in accordance with the pedigree enrolled in the Heralds' College, the difference being in the insertion of one more generation, viz.: John Sparry, baptised 1663, and making him the husband of Joanna Kettle, instead of the Sparry of the previous generation, baptised 1630. The difference between this account and the registered pedigree is shown in italics.

Pedigree of SPARROW, compiled from the Records of the Heralds' College, *Wills*, *Parish Registers*, *Family Papers* and other evidences.

Arms: Quarterly: first and fourth, per fesse *azure* and *argent*, in chief three roses fessewise of the second, and in base an arrow palewise, point downwards, proper, for SPARROW; second and third, *or* on a bend engrailed *vert*, plain cottised *sable*, three bezants, for HANBURY.

Crest: Out of the battlements of a tower *argent*, a unicorn's head *argent* semée of pheons *azure*, armed, maned, and tufted *or*.

Mottoes: " In Deo solo salus est", and " Pro patria, latria, atria".

The Hanbury crest, which we cannot inherit under the rules of English heraldry, is: On a wreath of the colours (*or* and *vert*) a mural crown *sable*, and issuant therefrom a demi-lion *or*, charged on the shoulder with a trefoil slipped *gules*, and holding a battle-axe erect, blade to the dexter, also *or*.

—— SPARROY, of Audley, Staffordshire, whose christian name has not yet been ascertained, was the father of two sons—

I. THOMAS.

II. James Sparrio, of Audley, *m.* Nov. 14th, 1555, Agnes Yardley, and *d.* June 1573, leaving issue (see page 58). Their descendants in Audley have been traced down to 1725.

The elder son,

THOMAS SPARROY, of Audley, *m.* Agnes —— (who was buried, May 14th, 1554, as Agnes "Sparry"), and *d.* August 1549, leaving a will which was proved 4th Oct. following, by his brother James, on the resignation of the widow. This Thomas had issue two daughters, and an only son,

JOHN SPARREY, or SPARROY, of Audley; bapt. Feb. 2nd, 1546; *m.* June 9th, 1588, Ellen Gybons (who was buried May 22nd, 1642); and *d.* July 1628. He was father of two sons, of whom the elder,

JOHN SPARRO, of "Talk o' the Hill," in Audley, was bapt. April 28th, 1593, and buried May 7th, 1641, leaving

by Alice his wife, who was buried at Wolstanton, Staffordshire, Dec. 21st, 1684, six sons and three daughters. The eldest son,

JOHN SPARROY, of Audley, was bapt. at Wolstanton, May 22nd, 1630, and buried at Audley, Dec. 9th, 1697. *He had issue three sons and a daughter, the eldest son being*

JOHN SPARRY; bapt. at Audley, March 21st, 1663, and was probably identical with the "John Sparry" who was buried at Lawton, Cheshire, June 4th, 1730. He had married at Wolstanton, Dec. 27th, 1685, Joanna Kettle, widow (who was buried at Lawton, May 2nd, 1735), and by her had issue four sons and a daughter. The second son,

JOHN SPARROW, of Audley, bapt. at Wolstanton, Sept. 22nd, 1689; *m.* at Audley, April 27th, 1712, Mary, dau. of Richard Booth of that parish, and had issue by her four sons and three daughters. This John Sparrow was probably buried at Audley, Jan. 19th, 1773. His third son,

WILLIAM SPARROW, of Wolverhampton, *b.* at "Talk o' the Hill", Nov. 5th, 1726, and bapt. at Audley parish church, August 2nd following; *m.* at Sedgley, Staffordshire, August 1st, 1761, Elizabeth, dau. of William Allen, of Coseley, and Phœbe his wife, and was buried at St. John's Church, Wolverhampton, April 27th, 1789. His wife was *b.* Nov. 5th, 1734, and was bapt. at Sedgley 17th same month: she was buried with her husband, Dec. 7th, 1816. They had two daughters and an only son,

WILLIAM SPARROW, of Pattingham, Staffordshire; *b.* at Wolverhampton, March 1st, 1764, bapt. there 16th same month; *d.* Feb. 10th, 1834, and buried at St. John's, Wolverhampton, 15th same month. He was twice married; first,

at St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, March 2nd, 1788, to Mary, dau. of Thomas Hanbury,[1] of Birmingham (who was buried at St. John's, Wolverhampton, Oct. 11th, 1819); and secondly, at Croydon, Surrey, August 25th, 1821, to Sarah, dau. of John Crowley, of Worcester. By his second marriage William Sparrow had no issue, but by his first wife he had eight sons and four daughters. The eldest son,

WILLIAM HANBURY SPARROW, of Penn, Staffordshire; of Albrighton Hall, of Church Preen, and of Habberley, Shropshire, J.P. and D.L. for Staffordshire; *b.* Jan. 6th, 1789, and bapt. at Wolverhampton, Mar. 2nd following; *m.* first, at Edgbaston, Warwickshire, Jan. 26th, 1811, to Caroline, dau. of Thomas Mander, of the parish of St. Philip, Birmingham, and Elizabeth his wife (which Caroline was born Oct. 19th, 1788, and bapt. at St. Mary's Church, Birmingham, Dec. 17th following), and by her (who died Feb. 22nd, 1822, and was buried at St. John's, Wolverhampton, 26th same month), he had issue—

I. William Mander, of Albrighton Hall, J.P. and D.L. for Staffordshire (High Sheriff, 1873) and J.P. for Salop; *b.* Nov. 16th, 1811, and bapt. at Wolverhampton, Feb. 16th, 1813; *m.* at West Derby, Lancashire, May 10th, 1848, Alice, dau. of Thomas Rogers, of Liverpool, and Flixton; *d.* Feb. 9th, 1881, without issue, and was buried at Albrighton.

II. Robert, *b.* Aug. 26th, 1819, and bapt. at St. John's, Wolverhampton, Sep. 17th following; *d.* unmarried, Nov. 22nd, 1843, and buried at St. John's.

[1] See HANBURY PEDIGREE, Appendix E, p. 144.

I. Caroline; *b.* Dec. 20th, 1812, and bapt. at Wolverhampton, Feb. 16th, 1813; *m.* at Penn, May 3rd, 1838, to John Horton, of Birmingham (who *d.* Aug. 16th, 1804, and was buried at Edgbaston); *d.* at Llandudno, and was buried with her husband at Edgbaston, leaving three sons and a daughter.

II. Emma; *b.* July 21st, 1814, and bapt. at Wolverhampton, Sept. 16th following; *m.* at Penn, May 14th, 1846, to Thomas Henry Fowke, of Wolverhampton, Surgeon, who was born at Wolverhampton, Feb. 14th, 1804. There have been three sons and three daughters, issue of this marriage.

III. Louisa; *b.* July 16th, 1816, and bapt. at Wolverhampton, 31st same month; *m.* at Penn, 14th May, 1846, to George Gwynne Brown, of Stourport, Worcestershire, Surgeon (who was born April 29th, 1810, and bapt. at St. Leonard's Church, Bridgnorth, May 2nd following); and by him had issue two sons and three daughters. She *d.* at Stourport, July 25th, 1859, and was buried at Penn 30th same month. Mr. Brown *d.* Mar. 5th, 1886, and was buried at Mitton, Worcestershire.

IV. Mary Sophia; *b.* Mar. 15th, 1818, and bapt. at Wolverhampton, April 12th following; *d.* June 11th in the same year, and was buried at St. John's, Wolverhampton.

William Hanbury Sparrow married, secondly, at Sedgley, Aug. 23rd, 1824, Sarah Higgs (born July 30th, 1803, and bapt. at Sedgley, June 28th, 1804), dau. of William Turton, of West Bromwich, Staffordshire, by Elizabeth his wife, dau. of Randle Walker, of Wolverhampton; and by her

(who was buried at St. John's Wolverhampton, Mar. 13th, 1834) had issue,

III. Frederick Turton, of Habberley Hall; *b.* Aug. 9th, 1825, and bapt. at Wolverhampton; *m.* at St. John's Church there, June 15th, 1848, to Elizabeth (born Aug. 25th, 1825, and was bapt. Oct., 1829), dau. of Henry Crane, of Graiseley, and had issue—

1. William Hanbury, *b.* Oct. 27th, 1851, and was bapt. at St. John's, Wolverhampton, Nov. 21st following; *d.* April 17th, 1852, and was buried there 21st same month.
2. Frederick Henry, of Leamington, *b.* Jan. 6th, 1853, and was bapt. at St. John's, Wolverhampton, May 6th following; *m.* at Scarborough Parish Church, Oct. 30th, 1872, to Elizabeth, only dau. of Sidney Flavel, of Leamington, and has issue—
   - (*a*) Frederick William Sidney, *b.* Aug. 13th, 1873, and was bapt. at St. Mary's, Scarborough, Sept. 21st following.
   - (*b*) William Henry, *b.* May 31st, 1876, and was bapt. at the same church, July 16th, following.
   - (*c*) Charles, *b.* Oct. 24th, 1877, and was bapt. at the same church, Dec. 9th following.
   - (*d*) Stuart Flood, *b.* Sept. 6th, 1880, and was bapt. at the same church, Oct. 10th following.
   - (*e*) Arthur John, *b.* May 12th, 1887, and was bapt. at the same church, June 16th following.

(*f*) Frank, *b.* Aug. 12th, 1888, and was bapt. at the same church, Sept. 13th following; *d.* Aug. 2nd, 1889, and was buried at Milverton Cemetery, Warwickshire, 5th same month.

(*a*) Ethel Elizabeth.

1. Kate.
2. Emily, buried at Penn, Jan. 14th, 1854.
3. Helen, *m.* Rev. E. Bowen, son of Canon Bowen.
4. Lucy, *m.* Edward George.
5. Ada.

F. T. Sparrow *d.* March 29th, 1887, and was buried at Habberley, April 1st following.

IV. (youngest son) ARTHUR.

V. Sarah Elizabeth, *b.* July 4th, 1828, and was bapt. at Wolverhampton, Aug. 4th following; *d.* unmarried Aug. 18th, 1867, and was buried at Penn.

VI. Mary Anne, *b.* June 21st, 1829, and was bapt. at Wolverhampton, July 15th following; *m.* at Penn, Dec. 4th, 1851, the Rev. Canon David Mapleton (who *d.* May 14th, 1891, and was buried at Braceborough, Lincolnshire, 20th same month). There were two sons and four daughters, issue of this marriage.

VII. (youngest dau.) Harriette, *b.* Oct. 6th, 1831, and was bapt. at Wolverhampton, Nov. 9th following; *d.* unmarried Mar. 19th, 1888, and was buried at Penn, 23rd same month.

William Hanbury Sparrow was on the roll for High Sheriff of Staffordshire for 1860, but did not serve. He

PREEN MANOR HOUSE.—THE TERRACE GARDEN.

(*From a Photograph.*)

d. Jan. 20th, 1867, and was buried at Penn. He was succeeded in Preen estate by his youngest son,

ARTHUR SPARROW, F.S.A.,[1] of Preen Manor, J.P., D.L., and (in 1886) High Sheriff for Shropshire, and J.P. for Staffordshire; *b.* Nov. 28th, 1826, and was bapt. at Wolverhampton, Dec. 7th following; *m.* at Eccles Old Church, Feb. 4th, 1851, Emma Ruth, dau. of William Gratrix, of Eccles, and has had issue—

I. Arthur Gratrix, *b.* Dec. 22nd, 1851, and was bapt. at Penn, Jan. 25th following; *d.* May 2nd, 1852, and was buried there.

II. Arthur William Hanbury, *b.* at Penn, April 8th, 1856; *d.* unmarried at Oxford (then of University College, and an undergraduate), Oct. 30th, 1878, and was buried at Church Preen.

III. Cecil Blair, of Somerton Court, and of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law, B.A. Oxon; *b.* at Penn, June 18th, 1859; *m.* at St. Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road, Kensington, April 15th, 1890, to Cara Mary, dau. of Charles Evan Thomas, of Gnoll Neath, by Caroline his wife, dau. of Henry Shepherd Pearson, and Caroline his wife, sister of Edmund, first Lord Lyons. Of this marriage there has been issue—

1. Arthur, *b.* at Gnoll Neath, Dec. 28th, 1892, and was bapt. at Somerton, Feb. 16th following.
1. Cara Cecil Audrey.
2. Ruth Mary Angela, *d.* May 3rd, 1894, and was buried at Somerton, 7th same month.

See *In Memoriam* notice at beginning of this book.—ED.

IV. Alan Bertram Hanbury, B.A. Oxon; *b.* at Penn Feb. 23rd, 1863; *m.* at Folkestone Parish Church, May 26th, 1891, to Christina Annie Margaret, eldest dau. of Major-General Charles Joscelyn Cecil Sillery, late 12th (Suffolk) Regiment, by Christina, his wife, dau. of Archibald Smith, of Hobart Town, and has issue—

1. Arthur Alan Hanbury, *b.* April 1st, 1892, and was bapt. at Preen, June 8th, 1892.
2. Brian Hanbury, *b.* Oct. 7th, 1896, and was bapt. at Tettenhall, Dec. 3rd following.

1. Ruth Margaret Sillery.

I. Edith.

II. Amy, *m.* at Church Preen, April 28th, 1880, to Edward Lennox Peel, son of Charles Peel, of the Manor House, North Rode, and has issue five sons and two daughters.

III. Ruth.

My dear wife died, June 26th, 1888, age fifty-nine, and was buried at Preen, 29th same month.

Manor House.

In the year 1870, the present owner decided upon enlarging and altering the old house at Preen, and the work was placed in the hands of Mr. R. Norman Shaw, R.A. Unfortunately, it was found impossible to retain any portion of the old work; and, very much against the owner's wishes, the whole of the house was taken down and a new house erected upon the same site as the old one. It was found that only a small portion of the old house had been part of the original

Prior's house. The latter had been altered so many times that only one or two walls remained, of which the east wall was the principal. This wall was some 50 ft. in length and 3 ft. thick. In the north end, adjoining the church, there were an ancient window and an ancient doorway; the latter, evidently, had been the entrance to the Priory; both were entirely hidden by the Terrace, a modern erection built by one of the Windsors (see pages 54-5).

The existing Manor house was completed on Mr. Shaw's designs in 1871. His drawing, giving a north-east view, was exhibited in the Royal Academy early in that year. It now hangs in my library. A photo-lithograph of this drawing was made by Whiteman and Bass, of London, and published in the *Building News* of August 11th, 1871 (vol. xxi, 100), and the illustration given in this *History*, with the permission of the proprietor, is taken from such lithograph. The following is also taken from the *Building News* at the same reference :—

"PREEN MANOR HOUSE.

"The Manor House of Preen, of which we this week give an illustration, lies between Shrewsbury and Much Wenlock, on the side of a valley which falls away grandly from the house, and rises on the opposite side, at a distance of about three miles, to the long, high ridge known as Wenlock Edge. The house is on the site of a cell formerly in connection with Wenlock Abbey, and it was at first intended to incorporate portions of the old walls into the new building; but they proved to be so entirely decayed that this was found to be impossible, and, though portions

of the new house occupy the same site as the old, no portions of the old walls exist.

"The parish church, to which the house is actually attached (and from which it gets the name of Church Preen), is of very startling proportions, being upwards of 70 ft. long by only 12 ft. wide, inside. It was carefully though plainly restored some four or five years ago. On the north side is the churchyard, raised on a high level, and chiefly remarkable for an extremely large old yew, unfortunately in a very decayed state.

"The approach to the house winds through a beautiful wood. The entrance-door is on a low level, and a wide stone stair leads up to the principal floor. On the ground-floor are the billiard-room, business-room, lavatories, and housekeeper's and butler's departments; whilst in the rear, and on a slightly higher level (so as to suit the fall of the ground), are the kitchens and offices connected therewith.

"The principal floor contains a hall and staircase about 35 ft. by 18 ft., from which enter the drawing-room and library. The large bay window in our illustration is on the north side of the drawing-room, and commands a fine view of a hanging wood adjoining; whilst a corresponding bay to the south overlooks the flower gardens and more distant landscape. Corridors lead right and left from the centre hall, one to the dining-room (the three lofty windows of which are shown in our view), the other to a music-room of large size, chiefly lit by a window at one end, opening into a terrace about 200 ft. long, from which magnificent views over the valley are obtained. The

kitchen garden is on one side of this terrace, and separated from it by the high wall, a bay or two of which is shown.

"Numerous bed- and dressing-rooms occupy the upper floors, from nearly all of which fine views are obtained. The house is built of local stone, with dressings from the Longnor quarries. The gables and half-timbered work are of oak, and in parts are richly moulded. The chimneys are of cut and rubbed red brick, and, as may be inferred from the drawing, are enormous. The roofs are of red Staffordshire tiles. The house will have an ample water supply from a large reservoir, fed by springs, on the high land in the rear, and at a distance of about half a mile; and it will be lit by gas from an apparatus placed down in the valley. The corridors, stairs, and principal rooms will be heated by hot-water coils, in addition to the open fire-places. There are extensive stables and outbuildings at the back, and a good range of greenhouses in the kitchen garden, a large fernery, and a conservatory.

"The architect of the building is Mr. R. Norman Shaw, and the illustration, as given by us, is a photo-litho. reproduction of Mr. Shaw's admirable drawing, which many of our readers no doubt saw this year at the Royal Academy."

A window at the end of the music-room opens out on to the terrace-garden, and the illustration in the present book, described as "Preen Manor House.—The Terrace Garden", is from a photograph taken from this window; it shows Wenlock Edge in the distance.

Before entrusting the work to Mr. Shaw, I had had plans

and drawings prepared by Mr. W. D. Griffin, of Wolverhampton, an architect of considerable ability; but I was unfortunately obliged to give up the idea of restoration. One of Mr. Griffin's drawings is given in this book, and shows the way in which it was proposed to alter the old house. The three rooms between the church and the room at the south end, as well as the south end room itself, with the three lancets, were to have been retained, and new rooms built over them. The south end room was built by one of the Windsors "to match the church". The east wall was cut to pieces in making three large entrances into the cellars under the terrace; and as it was considered unsafe, it was almost impossible to preserve it in the new building. In order to show these points, and to indicate how much required to be done to the ruined building, I have given illustrations of the old Manor House as it existed before 1870, as well as of the present house. The room built by the Windsors is shown in Mr. Griffin's drawing, on the reader's left, and the east end of the church on the right.

The Hughley Commission.

The following is copied from "Exchequer Depositions by Commission", Hilary Term, 32 Elizabeth, No. 1 (*Public Record Office*):—

"Interrogatoryes[1] to be mynystred one the parte and behalff of our Soveraig[*ne*] Ladie the Quenes Matie against

[1] Queen Elizabeth's object appears to have been to prove that the Priory of Preen was independent of Wenlock, and that the Prior of Wenlock had no right to sell it to Coverte in 1536, three years before the dissolution of Wenlock.

William Dickyns, gent., Richard Dickyns and William Stevens, Def^tes^.

"1. Imprimis whether doe you knowe the sayde Def^tes^ or any of them.

"2. Item whether did you knowe the pryorye of Prene in the Countie of Salopp and the Mannor or lordshippe of Prene in the same Countie, And did you knowe any the Prior or Priors of the saide Priorie, And how many Priors have you knowne there, And what was his or their name or names as you remember or have harde.

"3. It'm whether doe you knowe or have you harde that the sayde Mannor of Prene[1] was parcell of the possessions of the saide Priorie of Prene and soe contynued vntyll the dissoluc'on of the same Priorie.

"4. Item whether were the Priors of Prene removeable att the will of the Prior of Wenlocke or of any other, or did you knowe or have you credibly harde that any of them have byne removed from his sayde Priory of Prene, And any other putt in his place to be Pryor there duringe the lieff of hym that was soe removed, and yf you have, then when and for what cause was he or they soe removed, and by whom as you knowe or have credibly harde.

"5. It'm was the Prior of Prene knowen to be lorde and owner of the Mannor or Lordshippe of Prene, with th'appurtenaunces, and of all landes and hereditamentes in Prene as in right of the Priory of Prene, And whether was he soe commonly knowen taken and accepted to be lorde and owner thereof.

The question appears to have been whether the *Manor* of Preen belonged to the Prior of Preen, or was a distinct property.

"6. It'm doe you knowe that one John Castell was Prior of the sayd Priory and soe contynued Prior vntyll the suppression or puttinge downe of the sayde Priory, and was he seized thereof duringe all the same tyme as in the right of his sayde Priory of the sayde Mannor or Lordshippe of Prene and of all other the sayde landes and hereditamentes in Prene; or howe long tyme to your knowledge was the sayde John Castell Prior of the sayde Priorie, and seised of the sayde Mannor as in the right of his sayde Priory: And after his departure or puttinge awaye, who was then lorde of the sayde Mannor or to whom did the tenauntes then of the sayde Mannor paye theyr Rentes and services to your knowledge or as you have harde.

"7. It'm whether did not the sa[*ide*] Prior of Prene, after such tyme as the Prior of Wenlocke suffred a Recovery of the sayde Mannor of Prene or had conveyed the same awaye, goe aboute to complayne of the wronge doen to hym by the sayde Recovery or Conveyance, and whether was he not compounded and agreede withall for his right and estate in the sayde Mannor or lordshippe, And yf he were, then what was the Composic'on as you knowe or have credibly harde, And where did the same Castell contynew and dwell after his departure from his Priory of Prene vntyll his death to your knowledge or as you have harde saye.

"8. It'm what have you harde the Prior of Prene saye and confesse of his owne estate in the sayde landes.

"9. It'm whether was the Prior of Wenlocke att any tyme knowen or reputed to be lorde of the saide Mannor of Prene or to graunte any leases or to take any proffittes

FREEN MANOR HOUSE.—VIEW FROM THE TERRACE.

(From a Painting by Miss Edith Sparrow.)

of any landes in Prene att any tyme duringe your knowledge.

"10. It'm dyd you knowe that the sayde John Castell and other his predecessors have kepte Courtes att Prene and have graunted leases vnder his or theyr seale or seales some for lyves, some for yeares, some by Indenture and some by Coppie.

"11. It'm to whome doe you knowe that he or they graunted any such leases or Copies and in whose costody are the same leases or Copies now remayninge to your knowledg or as you have harde.

"12. It'm whether did the same Castell or any other beinge Prior of Prene att any tyme make any accoumpt [*or*] Accoumptes to the Prior of Wenlocke for any Rentes or proffitt of any landes or Tythes in Prene.

"13. It'm whether doe you knowe or have you harde any other matter or thinge that proveth the sayde John Castell, or any of his predecessors, Priors of Prene, to be lordes or owners of the sayde Mannor of Prene or of any parte thereof, or doe you knowe or have you credibly harde any other matter or thinge that proveth the Quene's Maiestie's tytle or interest of in or to the sayde Mannor or of in or to any parte or parcell thereof".

"Interrogatories mynistred on her Maties behalf, pl', against William Dickins, gent., Richard Dyckins, gent., and William Stevens, def^tes^, for th'examynac'on of the Tenauntes of the Mannour or lordshipe of Prene.

1. Item whether doe you knowe or have you harde

that John Castell late pryor of Preen or any other his predecessors pryors there did or vsed at any tyme to graunte leases in writinge vnder their seales to any person or persons either for lyfe or for yeares or by Copie of Courte rowle of any parte or parcell of the Mannor or lordshippe of Preen. And if he or they or any of them soe did, to what person or persons was the same demyse lease or Copy soe made to your knowledge or as you have harde.

"2. It'm whether did you ever see any suche lease graunt or Copy made by the said Pryor or any his predecessors pryors of Preen or any wrytinges mencyoninge the same. And if you did whether is the same writinge leases or Copies or any of them in your costody or possession, or in whose custody or possession the same or any of them are to your knowledge or as you verely thinke.

"3. It'm whether doe you knowe or haue you harde that the same leases grauntes or copies or any of them were delyuered either to the handes or possession of the said William Dyckyns or to any other person or persons to his vse or by his commaundement or request: And about what tyme were the same leases grauntes or Copies delyvered, to your knowledge or as you haue harde.

"4. It'm whether did you knowe William Mydleton, Fulke Mydleton, Robert Weaver, Edward Parsons, Thomas Parsons, Edward Whycke, John Corfeld, William Corfeld, Thomas Hodgkys, Roger Hodgkys, Edmond Haynes, and John Oxenbold deceased late dwellinge in Preene and late tenauntes to the last pryor of Preene: And how many of them did you knowe. And if you did knowe any of them,

what leases or Copies had they or any of them of any landes or heredytamentes in Preene to your knowledge or as you have hard. And yf they had whether the Pryor of Preene graunted the same, And for what terme were the same leases or Copies graunted. And whether were any leases or Copies graunted of any landes or heredytamentes in Preen aforsayd by any other person or persons but only by the Pryor of Preene and in his name at any tyme before the same Pryory was suppressed and put downe: yf there were who graunted the same leases and Copies, and to whom were they graunted to your knowledge or as you have harde.

"5. Item whether did not the same John Castell contynew Pryor and Lorde of the sayd Mannor or lordshipp of Prene vntyll the puttinge downe of the same Priory.

"6. It'm whether do you knowe or have you harde anie other matter or thinge that proveth the said John Castle or anie of his predecessours priors of Prene to be lordes or owners of the said Mannour of Prene, or of anie parte therof, or do you knowe or have you credyblie harde anie other matter or thinge that proveth the Quene's Maties tytle or Interest of in or to the said Mannour or of in or to anie parte or parcell therof."

The evidence given at the Hughley Commission (in answer to these two sets of Interrogatories) by the various witnesses was very voluminous and in many cases of a similar character: it is proposed, therefore, to give an abstract only of the evidence of each witness; and in some instances the language is varied for the sake of simplicity, without, however, altering the meaning.

Why the Commission should have been held at Hughley instead of at Preen it is impossible to say. There seems no reason for it, as the parishes adjoin; and no greater influence could have been brought to bear upon the witnesses had it been held at Preen instead of Hughley.

There were eleven witnesses for the Crown, whose united ages amounted to eight hundred and ninety-three years, or an average of a little more than eighty-one years each.

The following is a digest of their evidence:—

A. Charles Smythe, of Plaish (within a mile of the Priory, where he was born and had dwelt "all the days of his life"), aged seventy-eight, says: "that Don John Castle was Prior for the space of ten[1] years together, or thereabouts" . . . . "That after the departure of the said Castle from Preen he dwelled at Dudley and (Monk) Hopton till he died (September 1544)." . . . . "That shortly after the said Castle was put forth of the said Priory, and that the said Covert had entered, the said Castle accompanied by this deponent's father, went to London to complain of the wrong done unto him by the said Covert therein, and thereupon the said Covert, as this deponent's father reported, after a conference had, gave him the said Castle some yearly annuity, but what the same for certain was or for what term he knoweth not; and that he did see a writing under seal for the payment of the said annuity".

B. William Corfeilde, of Chatwall, yeoman, aged seventy-

[1] *Twenty* according to Thomas Smythe (see "I" on page 80).

eight, says: "that he doth not know that the said John Castle kept any Courts in the said Manor, but knoweth that he made divers leases to divers persons of divers parcels of land, parcel of the said manor, among the rest one lease to one John Corfelde, this deponent's uncle, for the term of 80 years or thereabouts".

C. Thomas Weyver, of Gretton Court, yeoman, aged eighty-two, says: "that he knoweth the said John Castle was Prior of the said Priory for the space of about 30 years, and until the dissolution of the same Priory, and during all the said time was seized of the same Priory and of the said Manor or Lordship as of right of his Priory" . . . . "That the said Castle granted a lease under his seal of part of the Priory House and demesne lands to one Robert Weaver this deponent's father, and did reserve to himself so much ground as did suffice to keep 7 kine or thereabouts" . . . . "That he knoweth not that the Prior of Preen made any accompt or was accomptable to the Prior of Wenlock for any part of the rents or profits of any lands of the Lordship or Manor of Preen".

D. Robert Shervington, alias Eyer, of Wylley, co. Salop, yeoman, aged 80, says: "he hath known the Priory and Lordship of Preen for the space of 60 years. . . . . That the said John Castle was possessed as in right of the Priory of the said Manor or Lordship of Preen".

E. Hugh Samson, alias Cornishe of Much Wenlock, aged ninety, says: "that John Castle was Prior of the said Priory until the dissolution thereof, being for the space of 40 years or thereabouts, and that during all that time he was seized or possessed of the said lordship or manor" . . . .

"That he doth not know nor hath heard that the Prior of Wenlock was reputed to be lord or owner or to take any profits of the said Manor of Preen, or that he made any leases of any of the lands of the said manor" . . . . "That the Prior of Wenlock did place one of his monks at Sandwell, one other at Dudley and one at Preen to serve in those several places, and that they were thereupon called Priors, and that the three Priories were cells unto Wenlock".

F. Rondle or Randle Massy, of Much Wenlock, clerk, aged seventy, says: "that after the Priors of Preen were placed the Prior of Wenlock could not remove any Prior there" . . . . . "That the Prior of Preen was lord & owner of the Priory Manor & lordship of Preen in right of his Priory in such sort as the Prior of Wenlock was of his Priory of Wenlock & the lands thereunto belonging" . . . . . "That John Castle was Prior of Preen & continued Prior thereof until the dissolution of the same Priory being about 3 years before the dissolution of the Priory of Wenlock; & that during that time he was seized of the said Manor or lordship of Preene."[1]

[1] The dissolution of Wenlock took place 1540 (see *Eyton*). One of the witnesses states that Castle remained at Preen until Coverte came into possession, 1536. In 1534 the King's Commissioners recovered the Manor of Preen against John, Prior of Wenlock; but this does not appear to have led to any result, or it might refer to only a portion (see p. 30). Preen was granted by Richard Coverte, or Katherine his wife, to Humphrey Dickins 1560, and was held by the Coverte family twenty-four years. The grant of Wenlock Abbey to Augustine de Augustinis was 1546, while the date of the Commission s 1590.

G. William Morryce, of Lushcott, yeoman, aged seventy, says: "that the Manor or Lordship of Preen was parcel of the Priory of Preen, and that the said Prior did at his pleasure take lands, parcel of the said Manor, from one man & lease or set them to another" . . . . . "That after the departure of the said John Castle one Mr. Coverte was lord and owner of the said Manor as he hath heard by credible report & he verily believeth the same to be true, for that shortly after the departure of the said Prior or suppression of the said Priory the said Mr. Coverte offered to sell the said Manor to one Robert Weaver (as he hath heard it reported by the said Weaver as by other common report in the country), and that after the suppression or dissolution the tenants paid their rents to Coverte" . . . . "That after the dissolution & the entry of the said Coverte the said John Castle went immediately to Dudley & there continued until the dissolution of the Priory of Dudley & thence came to Monk Hopton where he served as Curate until his death". . . . . "That he hath heard the said Priory was founded & was given to three to be a house of prayer of the Order of St. John the Baptist & saith that he saw the picture of a head called the head of St. John the Baptist in the church or Priory of Preen, where the same continued & was offered unto, until the dissolution of the said Priory & hath heard by credible report that the said John Castle had a common seal whereupon was engraved the picture of the said head of St. John, wherewith he sealed the writings or leases made of such lands as he granted which were parcel of the said Manor or Lordship of Preen."

H. Katherine Lewys, of Hughley, widow, "aged five score

years or thereabouts", says: "that the Priors of Preen were not removable by the Priors of Wenlock, for he which was once placed Prior of Preen was so to continue during his life."

1. Thomas Smythe, of Enchmarsh, yeoman, aged ninety-four, who was brother of the first witness, Charles Smythe, of Plaish, says: "that he did know one Cambridge to be Prior of the said Priory of Preen for the space of about 7 years & after him Don John Castle for the space of and above 20 years". . . . . "That the Priors during all that time did set the lands belonging to the said Priory". . . . . "That the said Don John Castle continued Prior until the dissolution of the said Priory, which was about 3 years before the dissolution of Wenlock; & saith that after the departure of Don John Castle one Hugh Lea was tenant of the said capital messuage or Priory House with some of the lands thereto belonging, but whether he was tenant of the King or of Coverte he knoweth not & the tenants of the said Manor paid the rents to one Foulk Myddleton, bailiff of the said Manor, but to whose use he knoweth not". . . . . "That after the suppression of the said Priory & the putting out of the said Castle, he, the said Don John Castle went to London in company with this examinate's father to complain of the wrong to him done & obtained an annuity of four marks or three pounds by the year during his life and immediately afterwards the said Don John was placed in the Priory of Dudley". . . . . "That he doth know that Don John Castle did keep Courts in & for the said Manor of Preen as lord of the Manor in right of his Priory & that he granted divers lands in Preen to the

tenants there, but whether the same were by copies or leases by indentures he proveth not nor in whose custodies the same leases or copies do remain."

J. Katherine Persons, of Chatwall, widow, aged eighty, says: "that Don John Castle being Prior gave unto John Myddleton in preferment of a marriage with a maid-servant of his the said Prior a house or tenement & lands in Preen, now in the tenure of one John Myddleton without paying any rent for the same during the life of the Prior's said servant & after her decease for the yearly rent of seventeen shillings to be paid to the said Prior and saith that during the life of the said John Myddleton's wife the same John enjoyed the said messuage by virtue of the same grant without paying any rent & after the decease of his said wife for the said yearly rent" . . . . "That after the departure of the said Prior the tenants paid the rents to one Mr. Dickyns as she thinketh."

K. Richard Fletcher, of the parish of Kenley, aged seventy-one says: "he doth know that the Prior of Preen for the time being was lord & owner of the Manor or lordship of Preen." . . . . . "That Don John Castle was Prior of the said Priory of Preen & so continued until the dissolution which was about 55 years past & about 3 years before the dissolution of the Priory of Wenlock, and during all that time was seized of the said Manor of Preen as in right of the same Priory of Preen," . . . . "That he thinketh in his conscience that the Prior of Preen had as good title to the Manor or lordship of Preen during the time of being Prior as the Prior of Wenlock had in the Manors belonging to the said Priory of Wenlock."

All these eleven witnesses lived within three or four miles of Preen. Two of them were brothers, Charles Smythe and Thomas Smythe. Two were women, Katherine Lewys, aged 100, and Katherine Persons, aged 80, both widows. William Corfeilde was related to the tenants of that name at Preen.[1] Thomas Weyver was a son of the Robert Weaver who at one period occupied a portion of Preen Priory House.

Two of the witnesses were Wenlock men: Hugh Samson *alias* Cornishe, and Rondle, or Randle, Massy, clerk. The latter may have been Vicar of Wenlock.

The evidence of the witnesses was intended to show that the manor and lordship of Preen was part and parcel of the possessions of the Priory of Preen, and that the Priors of Preen after their appointment were not removable by the Prior of Wenlock, and that they dealt with the land quite independently of him; that they granted leases and removed tenants at their pleasure.

Coverte appears, with or without the connivance of the Prior of Preen, to have bought the manor from the Prior of Wenlock, who seems to have claimed the right to deal with it, and to have sold it three years before the dissolution of Wenlock.

The object of the Queen's Commission was to show that the Prior of Wenlock had no right whatever to deal with the Priory of Preen. Some of the witnesses say that the Prior of Preen had a convent seal with which he sealed the leases; and one of them, William Morryce, of Lushcott, as already stated in the summary of the evidence, de-

[1] See p. 47.

scribes it as a "common seal", engraved with the head of St. John the Baptist. It is important to notice that, according to the evidence of Hugh Samson, of Much Wenlock, the Prior of Wenlock placed monks at Sandwell, Dudley, and Preen; and that, though they were called Priors, their priories were regarded as "cells" to Wenlock.

Ten witnesses were examined on behalf of the tenants, whose united ages were five hundred and three years, or an average of some fifty each. All the witnesses were tenants of Preen, except Alice Wylde, of Chatwall, and William Persons, curate of Preen.

L. Elizabeth Corfeilde,[1] one of the tenants, a widow aged sixty, says: "John Castle being Prior of Preen made leases of lands in Preen, and amongst other lands granted a lease in writing to one John Corfeld this examinate's father-in-law, and to his wife and their assigns of one messuage or tenement and lands in Preen now in the occupation of this examinate for the term of 81 years. . . . . That she saw the said lease under seal, and that her said father-in-law, mother-in-law, and one William Corfeld, this examinate's late husband by virtue of the said lease enjoyed the said messuage or tenement and lands until after the decease of this examinate's husband. That she the said examinate about 8 years past by counsel of her friends surrendered the same and took a new lease. That she delivered the said lease to her brother Richard Ball, of Burton and thinketh he hath the same".

M. Thomas Corfelde,[1] of Preen, yeoman, aged thirty-five,

[1] See page 52.

says: "he hath seen divers leases indentures and Copies granted by Don John Castle and his predecessors, that is to say, one granted to the grandfather or father of John Myddleton now tenant there of all that messuage or tenement now or late in the occupation of the said John Myddleton, and one other Indenture made by the said Prior for four score and one years to one John Corfeld and Johan his wife of all that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances (being parcel of the said Manor) now in the occupation of William Corfelde or his assigns, & one Indenture made by the said Prior of one messuage or tenement to one Myddleton & and now in the tenure of one Roger Merington, and one copy of *Court Roll* granted by one Cambridge, a Prior of Preen, predecessor unto the said Don John Castle as this deponent thinketh, unto one Myddleton or Whycke of one messuage or tenement with appurtenances in Preen, now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Whycke & William Myddleton; one other copy of *Court Roll* made by the said Prior unto one Hotchekys of one messuage or tenement now in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Bromfelde and Johan Hotchekys or their assigns; and one other copy of *Court Roll* made by the said Prior as he remembreth to one Edmond Heynes of all that messuage or tenement in Preen now in the tenure of Richard Cowper; and one other copy of *Court Roll* made by the said Prior Don John Castle unto one Whycke of all that messuage or tenement in Preen, now in the tenure of the said Thomas Whycke;[1] and one other copy of *Court*

See paragraph N on next page.

Roll granted by the said Don John to one Myddleton[1] of all that messuage or tenement in Preen, now in the occupation of the said William Myddleton or his assigns".

This witness also says: "that he hath heard it credibly reported that since the suit commenced on her Majesty's behalf divers of the said leases and copies were delivered to the defendant William Dyckins by some of his tenants, at his (Dyckins's) request. . . . . He does not know of any leases granted at Preen before the Dissolution, except by the Priors. . . . . He hath seen and read a writing purporting to be a Release by the said Don John Castle unto or to the use of one Coverte of all the right of the said Don John in and to the Manor or Lordship of Preen aforesaid".

N. Thomas Whycke, one of the tenants of the Lordship of Preen, aged forty-six, says: "that Don John Castle granted unto Edward Whycke this examinate's father the moiety[2] of one messuage and lands in Preen in the tenure of this Deponent by copy of *Court Roll* of the Manor or Lordship of Preen for the term of three score and one years". . . . . "He gave up the lease to defendant William Dyckins".

O. William Corfeilde,[3] one of the tenants of Preen, aged thirty, says: "that he hath hard by report that Don John Castle, Prior of Preen, granted divers leases in writing to sundry persons of lands in Preen, and saith that he hath seen and read part of some of the same leases, that is to

[1] The grant was to Richard Myddleton and Alice his wife for eighty-one years.

[2] The other moiety was granted to Myddleton.

[3] See page 52.

say one lease under seal of the tenement and lands in the possession of this examinate made to John Corfeld[1] and Johan his wife for term of many years; and one other lease by indenture under seal to one Myddleton of one other tenement and lands in Preen". . . . "And one other indenture of a tenement and lands granted to one Myddleton as he thinketh now in the possession of Hugh Lawe or his assign (evidently the same person as Hugh Lea mentioned by Thomas Smythe of Enchmarsh on page 80); and one other lease by indenture made to one Persons, of a tenement and lands in Preen, whereof some part is now in the tenure of one Richard Persons, and further saith that he hath seen two other copies as he thinketh granted by some Prior of Preen to one Whycke and Persons. . . . . He hath heard by report that some leases were delivered to the same William Dyckins since this suit commenced. . . . . That he knew William Myddleton, Edward Persons, Thomas Persons, Edward Whycke, William Corfeilde and Thomas Hotchekys, tenants of Don John Castle. . . . . That the tenements and lands granted by the leases were enjoyed by force of the same leases for many years . . . . That he hath seen a writing purporting to be a release made by the said Don John Castle to the use of one Coverte of all his rights in or to the Manor or Lordship of Preen".

P. Johan Hotchekys, one of the tenants, aged sixty, says: "that Roger Hotchekys her father-in-law took a copy[2] of the tenement and lands wherein this deponent and her son-

[1] See page 48.

[2] *I.e.*, Copy *Court Roll.*

in-law now dwell, for 61 years and enjoyed the same by virtue of the said copy until about 12 years back when they took new estates thereof of one of the defendants".

Q. William Myddleton, one of the under-tenants of Preen, aged sixty-eight, says: "that Don John Castle made leases to all or the most part of the tenants of Preen, which leases were enjoyed accordingly and namely one copy[1] of the tenement and lands wherein this deponent dwelleth to one Richard Myddleton and Alice his wife for a term of four score and one years. . . . . He doth know all the persons named, except John Oxenbold, were tenants of Don John Castle . . . . and enjoyed the same ever since, except some of them lately took new leases of the Defendant William Dyckins. . . . . That Don John Castle did receive the rents of the tenants of Preen until the dissolution of the said Priory of Preen, as he verily thinketh".

R. John Myddleton, one of the tenants, aged sixty, a godson of Don John Castle, says: "that Castle granted a lease for sixty-one years to his father, William Myddleton, ... delivered his old lease up to William Dyckins the defendant. He knew all the persons named in the fourth Interrogatory (see p. 74), and that they were tenants to the last Prior, some by indenture and some by copy, which they enjoyed until within twelve years past. That some of the same were surrendered . . . . and that he never knew any other but the Prior of Preen made lease before the Dissolution . . . . That John Castle continued Prior until the dissolution . . . . there dwelling."

S. Richard Persons, one of the tenants, aged thirty-six,

[1] *I.e.*, Copy *Court Roll.*

says: "he hath seen leases, one of which, in his own possession, of a tenement and lands in Preen, expired about six years past, and that the said tenement and lands were enjoyed by force of the said indenture until about eight years past . . . That he, having five years in the old lease unexpired, surrendered the same to the defendant, Richard Dyckins, and took a new lease for a longer term".

T. Alice Wylde, of the township of Chatwall, wife of Nicholas Wylde, aged sixty-four, says: "that she hath heard her grandfather and father say that the Manor or Lordship of Preen was parcel of the possessions of the Prior of Preen. That she hath heard that the Prior of Preen was not removable by any Prior of Wenlock, or that the Prior of Wenlock had anything to do with the Prior of Preen. . . . The Prior of Preen was Lord and owner of the Manor or Lordship of Preen and of all lands thereunto belonging. . . . . That after the putting down of the said Priory, one Mr. Coverte was lord, and received the rents. . . . . That she hath heard that the said Don John Castle, Prior of Preen, and his predecessors have kept courts in and for the Manor or Lordship of Preen . . . . That she hath never heard that any Prior of Preen made any accompt or was accomptable to any Prior of Wenlock for the rents or profits of any lands or tenements in Preen. That she hath heard by her father and grandfather that the Priory of Preen was given or founded by three men, namely, by one Burnell, Cawtrope,[1] then Prior of Wenlock, and one Geerse, to be a house of prayer."

[1] I have consulted Dugdale's *Monasticon*, and I cannot find the name of Cawtrope in the list of Priors. Had it been there, I should

CHURCH PREEN CHURCH, PRIOR TO ITS RESTORATION.

(*From a Sketch in the possession of Miss C. M. Beddoes.*)

U. William Persons, curate of Preen, aged forty-four, who was probably a brother of Richard Persons, one of the tenants who gave evidence, and a son of the Persons to whom a lease had been granted by Castle, says: "that he doth neither know nor hath heard that the Prior of Preen was removable or to be removed by the Prior of Wenlock. . . . . He hath heard, as is aforesaid, that the Prior of Preen was Lord of Preen, and known and reputed to be lord and owner of the Manor or Lordship of Preen, and of all lands in Preen as in right of the same Priory of Preen. . . . . That he hath likewise heard that the said Don John Castle continued seized of the said Manor as in right of his Priory, until the dissolution or putting down of the said Priory; and that after the same suppression one Giles Coverte was lord of the said Manor and received the rents of the tenants there. . . . . That he hath likewise heard by the credible report of ancient men that the said Don John Castle and others the Priors of Preen have kept courts in and for the said Manor and granted leases and copies to divers persons under their hands and seals of lands and tenements in Preen, of which he hath seen one Indenture granted by the said Don John Castle unto one Persons, of the tenements and lands in Preen, now in the tenure of Thomas Corfelde or his assigns for term of years, which was enjoyed by virtue of the same Indenture until about eight years past. That the same was surrendered and a new one taken for twenty-one years, at which time there remained unexpired in the old lease the term of five years or thereabouts.

have been able to give some idea of the date of the foundation of Preen Priory.

He hath also seen one copy granted by the said Prior of the tenements and lands in Preen, now in the possession of one John Hotchekys for many years, by force whereof the said tenement was enjoyed till the expiration of the years in the said copy which determined about twelve months or more past. He hath also seen one other copy made by the same Prior of the tenements and lanes now in the tenure of Richard Cowper for the like term, by virtue of which copy the same tenement was enjoyed till the expiration of the term in the same copy, which likewise determined about twelve months past. He hath also seen one other copy granted by the same Prior for the term of four score and one years of the tenement and lands in the tenure of William Myddleton or his assigns, which tenement and lands have been and yet are enjoyed by virtue of the same copy."

The evidence of the tenants goes to corroborate the evidence of the witnesses for the Crown, viz., that the Prior of Preen granted leases to the tenants in his own name, and was in fact the landlord. The leases were for a long term of years, most of them for eighty-one years. I have shown that the tenants also said that some eight or twelve years before the expiration of the term the tenants gave up their leases to Richard Dyckins and took new ones. The tenants' evidence proves that all the leases were sealed with the seal of the Prior of Preen.

There were nineteen witnesses examined on behalf of the defendant; of these, four, viz., Thomas Corfelde, William Corfeilde of Preen, Thomas Whycke and John Myddleton, were tenants who had been examined pre-

viously ; and of the remaining fifteen, three, viz., Rondle, or Randle, Massy, Hugh Samson, *alias* Cornishe, and Alice Wylde, had been previously examined on behalf of the Crown.

The united ages of the nineteen were 1,288, or an average of nearly sixty-eight years each.

Four were Preen tenants (one yeoman, two husbandmen, and one unnamed), six were Wenlock men (one parson, one tanner, one weaver, one husbandman, one labourer, and one unnamed), two were Burton, or Bourton, men (husbandmen), one was a Kenley man (labourer), three were Hughley men (two husbandmen and one unnamed), one was a Presthope man (husbandman), one was a Brockton man (unnamed), and one was a Chatwall woman.

V. Rondle, or Randle, Massy (previously examined for the Crown ; see F on p. 78), says : "that he doth know one cell, capital messuage, or mansion house in Preen wherein one monk did dwell and continue . . . . That he doth know that the Prior of Wenlock did place, name, prefer and appoint one Don John Castle, who was a monk of the said Priory of Much Wenlock, to celebrate service, sacraments and prayers then used at Preen aforesaid, and to dwell and continue at in and upon the said cell, and to have the lands thereto belonging as by the gift and ordinance of the then Prior of Much Wenlock aforesaid . . . . . That the said Castle was under the government, controlment, correction and jurisdiction of the Prior of Much Wenlock, and after he was there placed was not of the convent of Much Wenlock. . . . . He does not know nor hath heard that any monk or monks dwelling and

serving at Preen aforesaid had any corporation, common or convent seal there, as very Priors thereof, but sayeth that he hath heard that Don John Castle did make leases of part of Preen, but under what seal he knoweth not. . . . . That he doth know that the said cell of Preen was a very cell and member of the Priory of Much Wenlock aforesaid, but whether the lands belonging to Preen were parcel of the possessions of Much Wenlock he knoweth not; and further sayeth that he knoweth that the Prior of Preen for a fault which he had committed was sent for by the Prior of Much Wenlock, and was by him punished for his said offence in the Chapter House of Much Wenlock aforesaid, and was his obediencer there."

W. Christopher Morrall, of Much Wenlock, tanner, aged eighty, says: "he knew the mansion house in Preen where one Don John Castle did dwell and continue, who used and did wear the same apparel and habit as the monks of the Priory of Much Wenlock then did, and was nevertheless called the Prior of Preen".

X. John Wilcox of Burton, husbandman, aged eighty, says: "that he knoweth divers messuages and lands in Preen whereof the defendants or some of them have had and received the rents and profits . . . . He hath heard that the Prior of Much Wenlock did prefer one of the Monks of Wenlock to be Prior of Preen. . . . . That he hath heard that the said Don John was by the Prior of Much Wenlock called and punished at the Priory of Much Wenlock by the said Prior for his misdemeanours. . . . . The said mansion house at Preen was a very cell and member of the Priory of Much Wenlock, and the said monk so

placed and serving at Preen was an obediencer to the Prior of Wenlock."

Y. William Doughty of Burton, husbandman, aged eighty, says: "Preen was a cell of Much Wenlock. . . . . Don John Castle was placed and appointed by the Prior of Much Wenlock to serve and say service at Preen, and was then called the Prior of Preen. . . . . That he that was there placed by the Prior of Much Wenlock was under the government, controlment and correction of the said Prior, and was by him called, punished and corrected for his misdemeanours. . . . . That he hath heard by credible report that the cell of Preen was a very cell and member of the Priory of Much Wenlock."

Z. Hugh Samson, *alias* Cornishe (previously examined for the Crown; see E on p. 77) says: "that the said Don John Castle was called before the Prior of Much Wenlock, and was by the said Prior corrected and punished at the Priory of Wenlock for some misdemeanour, and was kept under such correction for the space of one fortnight or thereabouts, during which time deponent knoweth that one 'Sir' Richard Fishwick, sexton of the Priory of Much Wenlock, was appointed by the Prior of Much Wenlock to serve and say service and prayers then used at Preen. . . . . That the cell or house of Preen was a cell and member of the Priory of Wenlock, and the monk placed there was an obediencer of the Prior of Much Wenlock, and did then wear his cowl as the monks of Wenlock did".

A A. Thomas Benbowe of Much Wenlock, husbandman, aged eighty, says: "that he knoweth that the Prior of Much Wenlock did appoint one Fishwick sexton of Much

Wenlock to serve and say service and prayers then used at Preen in the absence of Don John Castle, who was punished or in prison by the said Prior of Much Wenlock for some offence he had committed whilst he was at Preen, which was, as he remembereth by the space of one fortnight or thereabouts: and this deponent did then see the said Castle in prison and afterwards he was released and restored to his Priory of Preen again, which Priory he had at the first by consent of the said Prior of Wenlock and his whole brethren. . . . . He knoweth by the only report of one Corfield deceased, who was a tenant of certain lands belonging to the said cell of Preen, that he the said Corfield could not have his lease made by the Prior of Preen without the consent of the Prior of Much Wenlock. . . . . That the Prior of Preen was Prior thereof as the Prior of Much Wenlock was Prior of Wenlock, but could not make leases of lands without the consent of the Prior of Much Wenlock; and further sayeth that he neither knoweth nor hath heard that the Priory of Preen had any corporation or common or convent seal of itself. . . . . That the Prior of Preen was accompted one of the number of the said Priory of Much Wenlock as the said Priors of Sandwell and Dudley were. . . . . That he knoweth that the Prior of Preen did call the Prior of Much Wenlock Master, and did take him for his Master and would bow down to him, and so did the Priors of Sandwell and Dudley".

B B. Robert Mounslowe, of Much Wenlock, labourer, aged seventy-two, says: "he knoweth the said cell or mansion house at Preen wherein a monk of Much Wenlock did

dwell and continue and was then Prior of Preen. . . . . That he knoweth that Richard Dyckins one of the defendants holdeth parcel of the lands belonging to the said cell of Preen in his possession and taketh the issues and profits thereof. . . . . That Don John Castle was placed at Preen as Prior by the gift and setting in of the Prior of Much Wenlock. . . . . That Don John Castle was sent for by the Prior of Much Wenlock to the Priory of Much Wenlock and was there punished and detained under correction in in the Sextry by the space of about one fortnight or 8 days. . . . . He also says that he was under the obedience of the Prior of Much Wenlock and called him Master. . . . . That he knoweth not whether the Prior of Preen had any corporation or common or convent seal".

C C. William Browne, alias Tyler, of Much Wenlock, weaver, aged eighty-five, says: "that Don John Castle was called Prior of Preen and continued there till about 54 years past within a year over or under to his remembrance" (*i.e.*, 54 years from date of Commission, so that he was Prior until 1536, the date of the dissolution of Preen). . . . . That Don John Castle was punished at Wenlock Priory for his offence in a place near the Chapter-house that people might see him, but not in the Chapter-house . . . . That the Prior of Preen had no seal, but what he had of the Prior of Wenlock. . . . . That the said cell of Preen was accompted a member of the Priory of Much Wenlock and that the Priors thereof could not set or let any part thereof without the consent of the Prior of Wenlock".

D D. Thomas Fraunces, of Kenley Wood, labourer, aged sixty-four, says: "he knoweth the messuages and lands

in the occupation of the defendants, or some of them, or their tenants or farmers, were parcel belonging to the mansion house of Preen. . . . . He hath heard that if the Prior of Preen did not demean himself well that then the Prior of Wenlock might call him to Wenlock and put another in his place."

E E. William Corfield, of Hughley, husbandman, aged seventy, says: "he knoweth the mansion house in Preen wherein Richard Dyckins one of the defendants doth dwell, wherein one who was before a monk of Much Wenlock and came from thence, did dwell, and was called Prior of Preen. . . . . That he hath heard his mother say, who did dwell at the same mansion house, that the Prior of Much Wenlock did place and prefer a monk out of his house or Priory of Wenlock to serve at Preen aforesaid. . . . . That he hath heard his said mother say that the said monk, after he was placed at Preen did come and go to the Prior of Much Wenlock, and was by him punished at Wenlock Priory for some offence committed by him at Preen. . . . . That the monk placed at Preen was a conventual monk inferior to the Prior of Much Wenlock, and still part of the convent there. . . . . That he hath heard by like report that the Prior of Wenlock did shift him which was placed at Preen at his pleasure, and this deponent saith that he hath heard reported since the suppressing of Preen that leases which were made of the lands belonging to the said mansion house were found fault withal, and some men have talked that such leases were not good, but who they were or what time such talk was used he remembereth not."

F F. Thomas Corfelde, of Preen (previously examined on behalf of the tenants, see M, p. 83), says: "he knoweth the mansion house in the Interrogatory mentioned, but whether a monk did dwell therein he knoweth not. . . . . That he hath heard reported that the Prior of Wenlock did correct the last Prior of Preen for some offence which he had committed at Preen, but for what cause or by what authority he so did this deponent knoweth not. He knoweth not nor hath heard that the Prior of Preen had any corporation or convent seal as very Prior, but knoweth that the said Prior made leases under a seal, and that the lands so leased were enjoyed by virtue of the said leases for a long time; but whether the same leases were granted by consent of the Prior of Wenlock or what authority the Prior of Preen had to grant the leases this deponent knoweth not. . . . . That the said cell or mansion house of Preen was a cell out of the Priory of Wenlock, and hath lately heard that the Prior of Preen did owe obedience to the Prior of Wenlock, but what manner of obedience this deponent knoweth not. That some of the tenants of the lands have compounded and taken new leases for a longer time, and surrendered their old leases, at the hands of William Dyckins and Richard Dyckins two of the defendants, and that some of the said tenants had the opinion of Mr. William Leighton, Esquire (*of Plaish*), of their said new leases".

G G. Richard Bradeley, of Brockton, aged seventy-five, says: "he doth know the said cell of Preen wherein a monk of Wenlock did dwell and was inducted by the Prior of

Wenlock and called Prior of Preen. . . . . He hath heard that the Prior of Preen was at and under the government and correction of the Prior of Wenlock, as the monks of Wenlock were, but whether he were to be removed, punished, or corrected by the Prior of Wenlock, this deponent knoweth not. . . . . He doth not know nor hath heard that the Prior of Preen had any corporation or convent, or any common or convent seal, as Priors of other Priories had. . . . . That the common voice and speeches was that the cell of Preen was a cell and member of the Priory of Much Wenlock, but what duty the Prior of Preen did owe to the Prior of Wenlock after he was placed at Preen, or whether he owed him any or none this deponent of his own knowledge knoweth not, but he hath heard that he did owe the Prior of Wenlock duty and was corrected by him."

H H. Thomas Whycke (previously examined on behalf of the tenants—see N, page 85), says: "that he knoweth some copies made of the possessions of Preen by Don John Castle who he hath heard his father say was Prior of Preen, and that the copies were made by him without the consent of the Prior of Wenlock, as he thinketh, and that the deponent having a copy made to him of the lands which he holdeth did take a lease for a longer time of the same from the defendant William Dyckins and delivered up unto him his first copy and lost his old (*lease of*) years at such time as the rest of his neighbours did the like, wherein he saith his landlord the said William Dyckins was good to him, and the cause why he so did (i.e., *surrender the old lease*), was because his neighbours did the like".

I I. William Corfeilde of Preen (previously examined on behalf of the tenants—see O, page 85), says: "that he hath heard one John Myddleton say, who was one of the tenants, that about 12 years since he did compound with William Dyckins, one of the defendants, and did take a new lease of him of the said lands, which were granted by his old lease, and about the same time one Thomas Whycke did also take a new lease of such lands as he did hold, having about eight years then not expired, and about the same time one Cowper did the like having the like term unexpired, and about the same time one Stephens did the like, but whether he had any term unexpired this deponent knoweth not: and further sayeth, that about the same time this deponent's mother Elizabeth Corfeilde and this deponent did the like for their tenement, having then twenty years and more unexpired, and took the same by their new lease for three lives; and further sayeth the cause why his said mother and he did take a new lease for lives having so great a term to come and unexpired in the old lease was because they did take occasion by the advice of their friends and Counsel learned in the law to fear their old lease, and their Counsel which gave them such advice was Mr. Plowden, deceased, who advised them also to take a new lease".

J J. William Heynes of Hughley, husbandman, aged sixty-two, sayeth: "that he hath heard his father and mother say that the Prior of Wenlock had the appointing of the Prior of Preen who was previously one of the monks of Wenlock Priory, and he hath heard likewise the Prior of Preen was under the government and correction of the

455252 A

Prior of Wenlock and was corrected and punished by the Prior of Wenlock, and sayeth further that as he has heard the said capital house of Preen was a member of the Priory of Wenlock".

K K. William Persones of "Prestopp" (*Presthope*), husbandman, aged seventy, says: "that he knoweth the mansion house in Preen now in the tenure of Richard Dyckins one of the defendants wherein one Don John Castle did dwell and was called Prior of Preen. . . . . He hath heard that John Myddleton, one of the tenants of Preen, did of late surrender up his old lease to William Dyckins defendant, and took a new lease of him and the cause was as he hath heard because his old term was almost expired, as also as he hath heard that Myddleton feared that Fraunces Cocke, being Myddleton's tenant of the moiety, would procure an estate of the whole".

L L. John Garrett of Hughley, aged seventy-five, says: "that he did know the capital messuage or mansion house in Preen wherein one did dwell who was sometimes called Monk of Preen and sometimes Prior of Preen, and he thinketh his name that last dwelt there was Bayley (see page 23). . . . . That the speeches and whole voice of the country were that the Prior of Wenlock did place him which was at Preen to be Prior there and to say service there and to displace him when he would if he did use himself otherwise than he ought to do and also that he which was so placed at Preen was under the government and correction of the Prior of Wenlock, and to be by him corrected (if he did amiss) and was nevertheless whilst he was continuing at Preen reckoned and accompted to be one of the house of

Wenlock and under the Prior there. . . . . That the voices of the country thereabouts, about seventy years since, was that the said mansion house of Preen was a member of the Priory of Wenlock and belonging thereunto, and that he which was so placed at Preen was called Prior of Preen and one of the Monks of Wenlock under the Prior there and of the house there. . . . . That he which was so placed at Preen was to be removed by the Prior of Wenlock at all times, as the like speeches and voices of the country were".

M M. Alice Wylde (previously referred to under T on p. 88) says she is ignorant, although she gave copious evidence as the tenants' witness.

N N. John Myddleton (who gave evidence for the tenants, see R p. 87) says: "that the Prior of Wenlock did place one of his monks of Wenlock to be Prior of Preen and there to serve, and sayeth further that the said monk so there placed was to be there upon his good demeanour, so long as he did use himself well, there to continue; and that also he was corrected by the Prior of Wenlock, and hath heard his elders say that the Prior of Wenlock might displace such one as he did there place if he did not there use himself well, and that the tenants would punish and correct him if he did not well. He hath heard his elders say that he was sent home to Wenlock and there punished because he did not well at Preen; and was then accompted one of the Monks of Wenlock during the time of his punishment, and another appointed by the Prior of Wenlock to serve in his place in his absence; and afterwards came again to Preen and was Prior there. He further sayeth that he hath seen a lease made by Don John

Castle, who was said to be Prior of Preen, to one William Myddleton, this deponent's father, of a tenement and lands in Preen now in this deponent's occupation, which lease this deponent yielded up to William Dyckins, one of the defendants, before the expiration thereof, and took of him a new lease thereof, and so did his neighbours of their tenements, fearing their old leases which were made by the said Don John Castle would be proved to be nought, which was the cause that moved this deponent likewise to yield up his old lease and take a new one of the said William Dyckins".

Summary of the Evidence.

The evidence of these nineteen witnesses called for the Defendants, William Dickyns, Richard Dickyns and William Stevens is somewhat contradictory, but on the whole goes to show that the Prior of Preen was under the control of the Prior of Wenlock, and that the latter had power to remove the Prior of Preen for misconduct, but whether he had power to permanently displace him is not quite clear; only four or five of the witnesses speak positively upon this point.

Two of the witnesses state that the Prior of Preen could not grant leases without the consent of the Prior of Wenlock, but two other witnesses, Thomas Whycke and Thomas Corfelde, both tenants previously examined, say distinctly that the Prior of Preen could and did, but they admit that some of the tenants took new leases from the Defendants, because they thought that the leases of the Prior of Preen were not good. Most of the deponents say

that the Prior of Preen had no convent seal of his own (this is diametrically opposed to previous evidence), and they lay great stress upon this point, but they say that the leases were made under seal, leaving us to infer that they were sealed with the seal of the Prior of Wenlock.

Great stress, too, is laid upon the fact that the Prior of Preen had been punished by the Prior of Wenlock, and that he was in the habit of calling him "Master". One witness, Richard Bradeley of Brockton, says, he does not know whether he (the Prior) was to be removed, punished and corrected; but says that he was under the government and control of the Prior of Wenlock as the monks of Wenlock were.

In reference to the leases, it is to be observed that Thomas Corfelde says he does not know whether leases were granted with the consent of the Prior of Wenlock. Evidently he was unwilling to commit himself either way.

Thomas Benbowe, of Much Wenlock, says, that the said cell of Preen was but a cell and member of the Priory of Wenlock; but whether the Prior of Preen after his appointment was then of the convent of Much Wenlock he knoweth not. "Nevertheless the said Prior of Preen was accompted one of the number of the said Prior of Much Wenlock as the Priors of Sandwell and Dudley were."

A previous witness, Hugh Samson *alias* Cornishe, had spoken of Sandwell as a cell of Wenlock.

I think there must be some mistake, as EYTON does not mention Sandwell at all, neither does Sir George Duckett. The only cells of Wenlock were Dudley, Preen, and St. Helens in the Isle of Wight.

In the evidence of the various witnesses there are many incidental allusions to the state of the parish for the fifty years between the dissolution and the time of the Commission.

Preen appears to have been much more densely populated than it is now; there were at least ten tenants with fair-sized holdings, besides smaller tenants and cottages. Such a change, indeed, if we may judge from the registration of baptisms and burials in the various country parishes, and also from the remains of old manor houses now turned into farm houses, appears to have taken place in many of these agricultural parishes in Shropshire.

Three hundred years ago there were few parishes without their church and manor house, in the latter of which the squire lived, well content with his modest patrimony of twelve or fifteen hundred acres, and who employed a sufficient amount of labour to keep the land in a fair state of cultivation. Now, alas! the squire is fast disappearing, and a few farm labourers barely suffice to keep the land from relapsing into a state of nature.

A tempting Prospectus.

Hitherto I have alluded to the treasures of the Record Office, but there are many other sources of information which are well known to archæologists, chief amongst them, the Bodleian Library and the British Museum; and I must congratulate the Shropshire Archæological Society upon the work they have undertaken at the Bodleian in transcribing the *Blakeway MSS.*, which are of great value. I have myself

CHURCH PREEN CHURCH.—EAST END.

(*From a Painting by Miss E. M. Ecroyd.*)

had portions, referring to parishes in which I am interested, transcribed, and I can speak as to their great interest.

In the year 1727, John Dyckins, who was at that time owner of Preen, issued a prospectus which he called :—

"Leases for Twenty-One Years to be granted of an Estate Capable of such Improvements That the Lessees will be thereby entitled to the Gain of Six Hundred Pounds for the Payment of One."

A copy of this prospectus is in the Bodleian Library, and it is so curious that I have inserted it in the Appendix.[1] No doubt it was one of the many "bubble companies" that were attempted to be floated at this time, but it is interesting as giving an insight into the condition of Preen one hundred and seventy years ago.

After inviting all true patriots that are of a public spirit, and delight to see the solid and substantial manufactures of their own country flourish, to join him in his enterprise, he goes on to say what it is: first of all stating that the enclosed lands of the Manor of Church Preen consist of 1,440 acres, and that the greatest part of this land may be improved to 40*s.* per acre by turning the water over it that runs through the town constantly and carries the black water that comes from the dunghills along with it; also that there is a common of 200 acres that may be inclosed and made of the same value. As the whole area of Preen parish is under 1,200 acres, and as the rent in the best times does not appear to have exceeded

[1] Appendix A, p. 123.

25*s.* an acre, this view of the extent and value of the Manor may be looked upon as sanguine.

Then it is stated that a salt spring has been discovered by boring, and that it is so strong that it rises over the hole, although it is 15 yards deep.

In reference to this I may say that there is a tradition of a salt spring existing in one of the fields at Preen; but whether this is so or not, it is an undoubted fact that in many of the wells at Preen, when first sunk, the water has been found to be of a medicinal nature.

There are stated to be ten principal farm houses standing together in a small town or village, with barns, stables, and other suitable conveniences; also twenty well-built cottages, the inhabitants of several of them taking £20 per annum of the lands adjacent.

So that there were in all thirty houses, and if we reckon five persons to a house, the population would be one hundred and fifty at that time; since then it has greatly decreased.[1]

The prospectus speaks of six ponds existing, and the facility there is of easily making as many more; that a trout brook will run through them; and that a great number of springs that arise on the side of the hill may be easily turned into the brook.

The ponds here alluded to still exist, and were, I take it, the fish-ponds made by the monks.

After speaking of the delightful and pleasant situation,

[1] In 1793, the population was eighty-three, and in 1841 it was one hundred and one.

and the healthfulness of the place being so great that the inhabitants generally live to a great age, we are in the end enlightened as to the scheme itself.

Two furnaces were to be erected within the Manor for melting the iron metal, and converting it into bar iron. After a very abstruse calculation, the profit is shown to amount to no less than £656,500.[1]

Many different kinds of ironstone are stated to exist on the estate, one of which is like the Cumberland ore called hematite. It is also asserted that there is great plenty of coal in the country, and that provisions are cheap, it lying near Wales. I need not say that there is no ironstone at Preen; it is partly on the Caradoc sandstone and the lower Silurian, much below the Carboniferous system.

The Church. It is strange to think that the church attached to the small cell of the great Priory of Wenlock should still survive, and that the inhabitants of Church Preen should worship in the same building that their predecessors used for so many hundreds of years. How different has been the fate of the mother-house and its glorious church, the ruins of which, now so reverently cared for by its present owner, Mr. Charles J. Milnes Gaskell, tell us only too plainly what we have lost, and how ruthless has been the destruction since the day when John Bayley,

[1] As a matter of fact, furnaces were erected at Hughley, I think, sometime in the seventeenth or eighteenth century, but the ironstone was brought from a distance; the erection of furnaces there being in consequence of the facility of obtaining wood for charcoal. The furnaces were driven by water power.

the last Prior, on January 25th, 1540, surrendered the Priory to the King's Commissioners.

With the *Returns of Churches' Goods in the time of Edward VI to the Court of Exchequer* (Queen's Remembrancer; County of Salop), there are two interesting lists of Preen Church property, which I have given, with their translations, in Appendix C, at p. 134.

In a manuscript in the British Museum (*Additional MS.* 21018) entitled "Ecclesiastical notes and descriptive accounts of Parishes within the Archdeaconry of Salop", and described in the Museum catalogue as being in the handwriting of Thomas Farmer Dukes (*circa* 1841), it is stated that: "the Fabric" (of the church) "consists of a nave about 30 ft. long by 12½ ft. wide, and a chancel 38 ft. long by 12½ ft wide, and separated by some old tabernacle work. It would be a fine narrow Gothic building, if neatly fitted up and the view uninterrupted. The south side has 8 single pews for 3 persons", (and) "3 pews for 8 persons", (while the) "north side" (is occupied) "by single pews for 3 persons each and one holding 8 persons".

Unhappily, since this was written, the screen which divided the chancel from the nave has disappeared; indeed, it had gone when the property passed into the hands of the late owner.

No doubt the east end was occupied by the monks, and to the west of the screen by the laity of the parish.

When the church was restored in 1866, a doorway was uncovered leading from the choir into the Prior's house. This doorway has a square headstone-covering. In a short description of Church Preen, written in 1833 by the

well-known antiquary, William Hardwick,[1] he says: "the chancel in the days of Cromwell lost its division fence, being now altogether open to the church". From this I infer that the tabernacle work mentioned by T. Farmer Dukes was only the remains of the original screen.

Hardwick goes on to say that, in one of the windows in the north wall "is a circle of stained glass exhibiting four stars, the only remains of what once decorated this little antiquated pile". This, too, has disappeared, and the only stained glass in the church is contained in three modern windows. He also says: "there has been an oak ceiling with the usual decorations of roses at the points of the panneling, long hid from the public eye" by stucco. All this, too, has gone; the old roof, which was in an extreme state of decay, having been replaced by a new one at the time the church was restored.

The church was built about the middle of the thirteenth century, and at the present time has the appearance of an extremely long, narrow building, the removal of the screen no doubt in a great measure accounting for this. The measurements of the building are 69 ft. 8 ins. long by only 12 ft. 8 ins. wide inside. On the south side of the east end there is a simple lancet window of three lights, all of equal height, which, plain as it is in its masonry, is most effective. The lancets show separately outside, but inside, under one segmental arch, end with one display. It is very unusual to have three lancets together of equal height. There is

[1] From a MS. in the library of the late Hon. and Rev. Canon J. R. O. Bridgeman, of The Hall, Wigan.

one instance, however, at Eaton-under-Heywood, but the lancets there are much smaller and earlier, and each has its own splay. At Preen a large east window was required, and as tracery had scarcely been invented the three lancets under one head were erected. The remarkable point is that the central lancet is not higher than the others, as was usually the case, and this arrangement adds much to the beauty and simplicity of the window.

The whole of the east end is unaltered, just as it was built six centuries ago. At the west end is a lancet window of two lights, not so tall as those at the east. On the south side there are three single simple lancets, and on the north three simple lancets and a fourth lancet, with a low-sided window separated from the lancet above by a transom. This window is just on the east side of where the chancel screen formerly stood; it is a small square window. On one side are still to be seen the two places where the hinges of the casement were fixed. The arrangement below the window is unusual, as the splay of the walls is only continued to the bottom of the upper lancet, and below the transom the wall is cut away square to admit of a seat, 1 ft. 6½ ins. wide, on either side of the window. Between these seats there is a well, 1 ft. 10½ in. wide for the legs of the sitter; the height of the seats from the floor is 2 ft. 2. ins.; the height of the recesses in the splays from the seats is 4 ft. Antiquaries differ as to the object of these windows. The old idea that they were what was called leper windows, where the leper could sit outside and hear mass without mixing with the congregation, seems to be exploded; and now the low-sided windows

are supposed by many to have been windows from which the acolyte rang the sanctus bell at the elevation of the Host, to call the attention of all that might be within hearing.

Mr. Mackenzie Walcott suggested that there was an Ankerhold at Preen built on the north side of this window, and that it was so arranged that the recluse could command a view of the image of St. John the Baptist, to whom the church is dedicated, which was probably placed on a bracket that still exists on the Epistle side of the altar, the bracket on the Gospel side having been occupied by the image of the Blessed Virgin (see p. 36). Mr. Walcott's ground for supposing that an Ankerhold existed is a legend in the *Chronicle of Lanercost* (see Appendix D, p. 137).

On the south side of the altar there is a small simple piscina, surmounted by a quatrefoil arch, and below the south window at the east end is a seat for the priest.

When, in 1865, the church was restored and the west end rebuilt, a vestry was erected leading out of the porch, a roof put up of the trussed-rafter form, with five cants, a new doorway inserted in the south wall, and the north doorway and other minor details renewed. With the exception of these features, and the rough porch, dating back some two hundred years, the original fabric is preserved.

The ancient font is octagonal: the diagonal sides, which are much shorter than the others, end on two sides in small broaches, the remaining two being plain. It may be original, but the detail is less like the thirteenth than the fourteenth century.

The size is 2 ft. 2 ins. by 2 ft. by 2 ft. 4 ins. high, and the date as early as the church—thirteenth century.

The pulpit is Jacobean, and is ornamented with large rosettes. The reading-desk has much the same character, and bears the date 1646. The two front pews have a little carving of the same type.

The two bells, which now hang in a modern stone bell-turret at the west end, were formerly in the same place in a wooden square bell-cot, similar to the one at Hughley, and to many others in this part of Shropshire.

When the church was restored the whole of the west wall of the church fell down, carrying with it the bells and portions of the north and south walls.

The late Mr. Thomas North, F.S.A., a great authority, to whom I sent rubbings and particulars of the Preen bells, said that one of them is a pre-Reformation bell, probably of the fourteenth century, and dedicated to St. John (the patron saint). It is by the same founder as a bell at Ness Magna, which is traditionally said to have come from Vale Crucis Abbey. The founder's initial cross[1] is in both cases the same. Round the rim of the bell are the words: "Sancte Iohañes ora pro nobis". Between each word there is a royal head, which (Mr. North thought) may be the head (as a boy) of Edward, son of Henry VI, as it is similar to a head occasionally found, with a beardless crowned head, supposed to be Henry VI, and with another (female) head, supposed to be his Queen, Margaret of Anjou.

The other bell measures 18 inches in diameter, and was

[1] The cross is put *after* the word "nobis" in the illustration.—ED.

SANCTE IOHANNES

ORA PRO NOBIS

I

THOMAS·RUDHALL·

GLOCESTER·FOUNDER·1779

II.

CHURCH PREEN BELLS.—INSCRIPTIONS.

I. Pre-Reformation. II. Modern.

cast by Thomas Rudhall of Gloucester in 1779, his name and the date being inscribed on the bell thus: "Thomas Rudhall, Gloucester; Founder, 1779". This Thomas was the great-grandson of Abraham Rudhall of Gloucester, who died in 1735, aged 78, and who was the founder in 1701 of the Hughley bells, four in number.

The inscriptions on both the Preen bells are figured on one of the plates in this book. If Mr. North was correct in his surmise as to our pre-Reformation bell having come from Vale Crucis Abbey, no doubt it came at the time of the Dissolution, when a "clean sweep" was made of the abbeys and all that they contained. It may be of interest, in this connection, to give the inscriptions on the four Hughley bells:—

1. "God prosper all our benefactors." A. R. 1701. (diameter 22 ins.).

2. "Abra. Rudhall, of Gloucester, cast us all." 1701. Lancelot Corfield, gent. (diameter 23½ ins.).

3. "Peace, good neighbourhood". A. R. 1701. The gift of Jacob Littleford, minister (diameter 26 ins.).

4. "God prosper this parish." A. R. 1701. William Corfield, John Wood, churchwardens (diameter 27 ins.).

The walls of Preen Church were originally decorated with red and yellow lines, which are still visible in many places. The fabric was simply and carefully restored in 1866. Miss C. M. Beddoes, of Hereford, was good enough to allow me to reproduce as one of my illustrations a sketch in her possession, which shows the church as it appeared before the restoration. She made a copy of the original sketch in 1890 for the purpose.

In 1880 I made a new cemetery at some little distance from the church; and since then all the funerals have with one or two exceptions, taken place there.

There are three memorial windows in the church; an east window by Preedy, and two beautiful lancet windows on the north side by Heaton, Butler, and Bayne, all in memory of the Sparrow family.

They are thus inscribed:—

"To the Glory of God, and in memory of William Hanbury Sparrow, of Penn, in the County of Stafford, and Lord of the Manor of Church Preen, who was born Jan: 6th 1789 and died Jan: 20th 1867, this window is placed by his son Arthur Sparrow."

"Arthur William Hanbury, Son of Arthur Sparrow and Ruth his wife: Born April 8th 1856, Died Oct: 30th 1878."

"Ruth, wife of Arthur Sparrow, Born 16th July 1828, Died 26th June 1888, Aged 59. *I go to prepare a place for you.*"

Parish Registers.

The earliest volume of Parish Registers contains all the baptisms, marriages and burials for the period 1680 to 1812, and has the following title: "A *new* Register Booke for the Parish of Church Preen of all Weddings, Christenings & Burialls made in the yeare of our Lord God 1680; Edward Humpeth being the Churchwarden of the said Parish, Anno predicto 1680." From the use of the word "new", it would appear that there was a previous Register Book which has been lost or destroyed. The present volume is in parts in duplicate.

The earliest entry reads :—

" Imprimis, William Scriven of the parish of Condover and Elizabeth Cooke of this parish were married the 13th day of May Anno Dom' 1680."

Very many of the early entries give surnames which were borne later on by the tenants of the Priors of Preen ; doubtless the same families continued for a long time. Among these, the names of Corfield, Parsons, Middleton and Whicke frequently appear. The earliest Corfield entry is :—

" William Corfield buried 9 June 1682" ;

while the latest, given in the second volume of registers, reads :—

" Elizabeth daughter of Thomas & Ann Corfield baptized at Preen 6 June 1813",

so that the name of Corfield has been with us for at least three hundred years (see p. 47).

There are a number of entries of the Dickins family, the earliest being :—

" Thomas Whicke of Stanton Longe and Elizabeth Dickins of this parish married 29 January 1680."

Among the burials I found an entry dated August 26th, 1771, of an old woman named Anne Rogers, who had attained the age of 101 years ; and not many years ago we had another woman of the same name living in the parish, who was only a year younger.

As the result of a systematic examination of the first book of registers, I have prepared the following Table of statistics :—

Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1680	3	2	2	1723	4	—	3
1681	2	—	4	1724	3	—	3
1682	6	—	4	1725	1	—	3
1683	5	1	6	1726	—	2	—
1684	3	1	6	1727	4	—	2
1685	3	1	7	1728	1	2	1
1686	7	1	2	1729	2	—	8
1687	2	2	2	1730	5	2	6
1688	5	1	2	1731	—	—	—
1689	7	1	14[1]	1732	—	—	1
1690	5	2	1	1733	2	—	2
1691	8	2	2	1734	2	1	2
1692	3	1	4	1735	5	—	—
1693	8	—	8	1736	1	—	1
1694	3	—	3	1737	4	1	3
1695	8	1	3	1738	2	—	1
1696	4	2	3	1739	2	—	1
1697	5	4	2	1740	2	1	1
1698	5	—	3	1741	3	—	5
1699	5	—	1	1742	—	2	1
1700	3	—	8	1743	3	1	2
1701	—	1	1	1744	6	1	4
1702	11	—	1	1745	—	1	2
1703	—	1	1	1746	7	1	—
1704	7	1	2	1747	3	1	3
1705	3	—	2	1748	2	—	3
1706	6	—	5	1749	1	1	3
1707	7	2	3	1750	1	—	1
1708	5	—	2	1751	4	—	3
1709	4	—	1	1752	2	—	1
1710	2	1	2	1753	1	1	5
1711	3	—	4	1754	6	—	2
1712	—	—	—	1755	—	—	1
1713	4	—	1	1756	4	—	2
1714	2	—	3	1757	1	—	—
1715	1	—	—	1758	2	1	5
1716	1	—	1	1759	5	—	1
1717	—	2	3	1760	4	1	1
1718	6	—	3	1761	2	2	2
1719	3	—	4	1762	4	1	1
1720	—	—	4	1763	2	1	1
1721	6	—	1	1764	3	—	1
1722	2	—	7	1765	5	—	2

[1] Seven of these deaths were all in one family.

Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1766	4	—	2	1791	2	1	2
1767	4	2	—	1792	1	1	1
1768	2	—	2	1793	4	—	1
1769	3	1	1	1794	3	3	2
1770	—	—	2	1795	5	3	2
1771	3	—	2	1796	4	—	1
1772	2	—	2	1797	5	—	1
1773	5	1	2	1798	2	—	—
1774	2	—	2	1799	3	—	1
1775	2	—	3	1800	5	—	1
1776	3	—	2	1801	1	—	2
1777	—	1	6	1802	1	—	1
1778	1	—	1	1803	1	—	4
1779	3	—	1	1804	2	—	4
1780	—	—	3	1805	—	—	—
1781	3	—	1	1806	2	2	—
1782	3	—	4	1807	4	1	1
1783	2	—	1	1808	2	—	1
1784	4	—	2	1809	4	1	4
1785	—	—	1	1810	6	1	2
1786	—	—	—	1811	3	—	1
1787	6	2	2	1812	6	—	1
1788	3	1	—				
1789	3	1	2				
1790	2	—	2		410	76	307

These totals indicate, for the period of one hundred and thirty-three years, an average of just over three baptisms and two burials per year, and of one marriage every other year.

It is quite clear that the population of Preen was very much larger two hundred years ago than it is now, as in the ten years 1680 to 1689, there were no less than forty-three baptisms, ten marriages, and forty-nine burials, which would probably mean a population of at least three hundred. At present there are some one hundred and twenty inhabitants, while for the period 1680 to 1767 there

must have been an average of from one hundred and eighty to one hundred and ninety.

The second volume of the Church Preen Registers records all the baptisms, marriages and burials from 1813 to the present time; and I have compiled therefrom the following Table, covering a period of eighty-three years :—

Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1813	4	1	1	1844	2	1	3
1814	5	—	2	1845	5	—	3
1815	5	—	1	1846	5	2	4
1816	1	2	3	1847	3	1	—
1817	4	—	6	1848	3	—	2
1818	2	—	—	1849	5	—	—
1819	1	1	1	1850	1	2	1
1820	1	—	4	1851	3	—	—
1821	1	—	2	1852	3	—	—
1822	1	2	3	1853	1	—	1
1823	4	—	3	1854	4	—	2
1824	3	—	1	1855	1	—	2
1825	1	—	3	1856	2	—	—
1826	1	—	1	1857	3	1	2
1827	2	—	1	1858	3	—	3
1828	1	1	—	1859	3	1	—
1829	2	1	4	1860	4	1	3
1830	3	1	—	1861	2	—	—
1831	1	2	2	1862	4	1	—
1832	1	—	1	1863	2	1	1
1833	5	—	2	1864	2	—	4
1834	2	—	1	1865	4	—	1
1835	1	—	2	1866	1	—	1
1836	2	1	1	1867	1	1	1
1837	1	—	1	1868	3	—	2
1838	1	—	—	1869	3	—	1
1839	3	—	—	1870	3	1	1
1840	5	1	—	1871	4	—	1
1841	3	3	1	1872	5	1	3
1842	4	—	2	1873	4	—	1
1843	—	1	2	1874	2	—	2

Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.	Year.	Baptisms.	Marriages.	Burials.
1875	1	—	2	1886	4	—	1
1876	3	1	1	1887	3	1	—
1877	4	2	—	1888	1	—	2
1878	4	1	1	1889	2	1	—
1879	4	—	—	1890	4	—	—
1880	3	1	1	1891	6	—	2
1881	5	—	—	1892	1	—	4
1882	2	—	—	1893	3	—	2
1883	5	1	1	1894	1	—	2
1884	4	1	3	1895	1	1	1
1885	1	—	1				
					224	41	120

The Preen Yew. In the churchyard, adjoining the church, there is probably the largest yew tree in England, certainly one of the largest; it is indeed the glory of Preen.

In 1780, it measured 32 ft. 2 in. in circumference at the ground, and 19 ft. at 4 ft., showing the increase in circumference in one hundred and nine years has been 2.9, or 11 ins. in diameter; this is an increase of 1 in. in diameter in ten years.

In 1833, the measurement at ground was 36 ft., and at 4 ft. from ground, 22 ft.; so that in the last fifty-six years it does not appear to have increased at the same rate.

The only yew trees that I know in England comparable with our Preen tree are the yews in the churchyards at Crowhurst in Sussex, and at Darley Dale in Derbyshire.

The Crowhurst tree is stated to be 33 ft. at the ground and 26½ ft. at 7 ft. from the ground; but when I saw the tree a few years ago it did not strike me as being nearly

as large, or possessing anything like the vigour and health of the tree at Preen.

The Darley Dale yew is a very famous tree, and well deserving its fame. It is a much more vigorous tree than the Crowhurst yew, and it will compare with the Preen one in size.

The following are the measurements of the Preen yew taken August 26th, 1897:—

Umbrage		230 ft.
At ground		37 ft. 2 in.
One foot from ground		32 ft. 7 in.
Four feet from ground		24 ft. 4 in.
Seven feet from ground		23 ft. 3 in.
Branches		12 ft. 7 in.
Their height from ground:	No. 1	4 ft. 6 in.
	„ 3	3 ft. 4 in.
	„ 4	4 ft.
	„ 5	4 ft. 6 in.
	„ 6	3 ft. 6 in.
Branch 16 ft. from ground		3 ft. 10½ in.
Branches 17 ft. from ground:—		
No. 1		6 ft. 7½ in.
No. 2		3 ft. 3½ in.

The yew by the big bathing pool at Preen measures:—

At its base	21 ft. 10 in.
One foot from ground	21 ft. 3 in.
Four feet from ground	19 ft. 3 in.
Seven feet from ground	18 ft. 3 in.

THE PREEN YEW.

(*From a Photograph.*)

This tree is reckoned to be five hundred and twenty-five years old.

The following is extracted from that most valuable work, *The Yew-trees of Great Britain and Ireland*, by John Lowe, M.D.Ed., F.L.S. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ld., 1897):—

"*Church Preen.*—In the churchyard is one of the finest, if not the finest, tree in existence . . . . . The trunk is hollow, and measures 3 feet 6 inches across inside: it is this width for 10 ft., and will hold twenty-one men standing upright. Notwithstanding the hollow trunk the tree is to all appearance healthy, and every year throws out new wood . . . . . There are some very noteworthy points in these measurements which are not often so clearly brought into view. First, the difference betwixt the girth at the base and that at 4 feet from the ground, amounting to no less than 18 feet 8 inches. We have here distinct evidence that the top was broken at an early period, and probably on several occasions in later times; that a large amount of young shoots sprang up from the base and became welded together to form the trunk; and that the original trunk has entirely disappeared, as is shown by the central hollow. We may further observe that the rate of difference betwixt these two points has been increased in the following degrees during the last hundred years." Thus:

In 1780 the difference between base and at 4 feet was . . .	13 ft. 2 in.
In 1833 the difference between base and at 4 feet was . . .	14 ft. 0 in.
In 1889 the difference between base and at 4 feet was . . .	18 ft. 8 in.

a total increase in that period of 5 feet 6 inches, which can only have arisen from the growth of young shoots from the base.

"Then we find that the amount of increase in 109 years is 8.3 inches, or 1.9 of diameter, equal to 1 foot 3 inches in 62.6 years, the rate of growth for young trees being 1 foot in seventy to seventy-five years. These facts show that the base is an unsatisfactory place of measurement, and that old trees may increase much more rapidly than young ones."

Two pages back I have given a reproduction from a photograph of this famous Preen yew; but no "counterfeit presentment" can do it justice, and it must be seen to be properly appreciated. Reckoning 10 ft. diameter at 12 lines to the inch, the age of the tree, according to Mr. A. de Candolle's[1] reckoning, would be 1,440 years: in other words, it was possibly planted when Hengist founded the kingdom of Kent in A.D. 457! On the other hand, Dr. Lowe estimates the age at 750 or 1,000 years, taking the diameter at 10 ft., and allowing seventy-five years for one foot.

[1] *Physiologie Végétale*, A. De Candolle, 1831.

APPENDIX A.

LEASES FOR Twenty-One Years To be granted of an ESTATE Capable of such Improvements That the Lessees will be thereby entitled to the Gain of Six-Hundred Pounds for the Payment of One.

Printed in the year M. DCC. XXVII (Bodley Press Mark, Gough, Shropshire 3).

A PARTICULAR of the ESTATE is as follows:—

LEASES for one and twenty Years to be granted of an Estate Capable of such Improvements, by carrying on Manufactures for making Plates, both tinned and untinned Wire, and several other Sorts of Iron Wares, whereby, as is plainly demonstrated, the Lessees will be entitled to the Gain of six hundred Pounds for the Payment of one.

Such Understandings as these are for the publick Good, but too great for a private Person; therefore the Proprietor invites all true Patriots that are of a publick Spirit, and delight to see the solid and substantial Manufactures of their own country flourish, to take Share of his Gain; and that he may lawfully take this Method, appears by the Opinion of a very learned Lawyer in the Words following:—

"I do not apprehend that this is prohibited by the Bubble Act; for every Man may let his Land or any

Interest in it, for what Time and on what Terms he can agree, and may let it in as many Parts as he pleaseth."

The Mannor and whole Parish of Church-Preen, situated between Much Wenloch and Shrewsbury, in the County of Salop.

Ten Principal Farm-Houses, standing together in a small Town or Village, with Barns, Stables, and other suitable Conveniences.

Twenty Cottages well built; the Inhabitants of several of them take Twenty Pounds per Annum of the Lands adjacent.

An old experienced Surveyor hath made Oath, the enclosed Lands amount to 1440 Acres; the greatest part of the Land may be improved to forty Shillings per acre, by turning the Water over it that runs through the Town constantly, and carries the black Water that comes from the Dunghills along with it.

There is likewise a Common, that contains by computation Two Hundred Acres, and may be water'd likewise from the Water-Course that comes from the Town, and improv'd to forty Shillings per Acre; may be enclos'd because there is no other Freeholder or Copy-holder in the Parish.

There is a Salt-Spring that was discover'd by boring, which is so strong, that it rises and runs over the Hole, though it is fifteen yards deep; The Salt-Spring lies within four Miles of the Coals; whereas Droitwich in Worcestershire lies twelve Miles from the Coals. The Expence of eight Miles Carriage will therefore certainly be sav'd! The greatest Expence in making the Salt is Fire!

The King's Duty at Droitwich amounts to several Hundred Pounds per Week; This Salt-Spring lies within three Miles of the River Severn, a Navigable River. There are in the said Mannor several sorts of Iron Stone; there is one Sort that is red like the Cumberland Ore (called Hæmatites), which is the richest kind of Ore. There is another sort so peculiar, that a German, who made it his Business to inquire into the Nature of all our English Mines, declar'd he never saw such in England before, and that it was the Sort of which the best Steel was made in Germany.

By these several Sorts of Iron Stone being mix'd, no Doubt but as good Iron may be made here as comes from Sweden.

It would be a great Improvement to this Estate to erect Iron Works thereon; and the Conveniences of the Situation are so very extraordinary, that a prodigious Profit may be gain'd thereby. Several great Estates have been not long since rais'd by Iron-Works that are not so well situated as these will be. There is a great Plenty of Coals in this Country and Provisions are very cheap, it lying near Wales, that all Sorts of Iron may be manufactur'd at a very cheap Rate. And these Mines lie within three Miles of the said River Severn a Navigable River.

There are great Conveniences for building in the said Estate; it is a most delightful and pleasant Situation, and so very healthful, that the Inhabitants generally live to a great Age. The Materials for building are very cheap, there are several large Quarries of hard Stone that riseth

in Joints proper for building without Hewing; the Charges of Hewing other Stone are very great.

This Stone may be got for two Pence per Load; there is a fine light Slate that lies within two Miles of the said Mannor, fit for covering Houses; there is Lime-stone in great abundance that lies within two Miles of the said Estate, and the Coals lie but two Miles from the Lime-stone.

There are six Ponds, and as many more may be easily made with a very small Expence, and a Trout-Brook will run through them, and a great number of Springs that rise on the Side of a Hill may be turn'd easily into the Brook, which will very much enlarge the Stream.

It is propos'd to erect two Furnaces for melting Iron-Metal within this Mannor.

There are several Hundred Loads of Stone already brought to a proper Place for building one Furnace.

There are very great Quantities of Iron-Stone within a Bow-shot of the Places where the Furnaces are intended to be erected; which lie not more than three Yards deep, and may be got for one Shilling per Dozen Bushel; whereas the Iron-Stone in those Countries lies generally very deep, and costs eight Shillings the Dozen Bushels getting.

The Expence likewise of carrying the Iron-Stone four or five Miles, will be sav'd, which most of the other Works pay, because they are four or five Miles distant from the Mines.

In making one thousand Tun of Iron-Metal, there is used two Thousand Dozen Bushels of Iron-stone, and two

Thousand Loads of Charcoal: The cheap Woods for making Charcoal lie six Miles nearer these Mines than the other Works, which have destroyed the greater Part of the Woods that lie near them, and consequently rais'd the Price of those Woods which are left. The Carriage of the Iron-Stone four Miles will cost four Shillings per Dozen Bushels; the Carriage of the Wood six Miles will cost six Shillings per Load.

The neat Produce of these Works will be, after all Expences deducted, as follows:—

	l.
Sav'd by Carriage of 2000 doz. Bushels of Iron-Stone four Miles, 2000 4*s.* . .	400
Sav'd by Carriage of 2000 Load of Charcoal six Miles, 2000 six Shillings. . .	600
Sav'd by getting 2000 dozen Bushels of Iron Stone, 2000 seven Shillings . .	700
The ordinary Gain of a Furnace . .	1000
So that each Furnace will clear per An: .	2700

Note, The ordinary Gain of a Furnace that will blow 1000 Tun per An. is much more than £1000, but this moderate Rate is fix'd to avoid the Imputation of an extravagant Calculation.

It is propos'd that each Furnace be built large enough to blow 1000 Tun of Iron-Metal per Ann. in the whole 2000; which 2000 Tun of Iron Metal, will be reduced to 1500 Tun, by Waste in working it into malleable Barr-Iron, fifteen Hundred Tun of Barr-Iron, when manufactur'd into Wire and Plate, will at an Average be

worth six-pence per Pound, suppose the Wire be sold at eight-Pence per Pound, and the Plate at four-pence per Pound.

Fifteen Hundred multiplied by Fifty, amounts to	75000
Out of which sum of 75000 deduct for making 2000 Tun of Iron Metal . .	5000
For Manufacturing the Iron Metal into Barr-Iron at 5*l.* per Tun . . .	7500
For Manufacturing the Barr-Iron into Wire and Plate at 5*l.* per Tun . . .	7500
For carriage to London by the Rivers Severn and Thames, between which two Rivers, there is but twenty Miles land Carriage .	4500
Total . . .	24500
Remains clear Gain . .	50500

Note, These Goods may be carry'd by Sea for 30*s.* per Tun.

The Proprietor intends to grant 1000 Leases at 100*l.* per Lease.

A Lease for One and Twenty Years, is worth Thirteen Years Purchase.

50,500, the Yearly neat Produce of the Works, multiplied by 13 amounts to 656,500.

Each Lease therefore will be worth more than 600*l.*

Promisary Notes shall be issued out, to the Value of 100,000, which Notes only shall be taken in Payment for the Leases. Which 100,000 to be thus rais'd, shall (by

proper Trustees to be specially appointed for that Purpose) be applied to carry on the Works and other Improvements on the said Estate; and the neat Produce of the whole, shall be yearly (after completing the said Works) divided thus. One half to the Proprietor, as a Consideration for his Estate and Mines, there being likewise very improveable Lead and Coal Mines on the said Estate; and the other half of all the neat Profits to be divided among the several Lessees, according to their respective Proportions of the said Leases.

The Proprietor hath digged thro' a Vein of red Mudd or Earth ten yards deep in this Estate, which may produce something very valuable, as will appear by the Description given of such Earth, by the learned Mr. Boyle in his *Medicina Hydrostatica*, Page 201, in the Words following:—

"To manifest that this Expedient may be of use in divers cases, I shall only here observe, that a late Author, who hath published an Account of Swedland, declares, that one of the best Sorts of Swedish Iron (which you know is much esteem'd in its kind) as divers Times found in the Form of a red Mud, at the Bottom of Lakes, or far lesser stagnant Waters; which I then more readily believe, because I have found some English Oakers (that pass but for red Earth or Stone of that Colour) to be richer in Iron, than I found some famous Ores of that Metal to be: And another experienced Writer; who gave us an Account of the Gold and Silver Mines of America, among which he spent several Years, takes Notice, that Gold itself is found from Time to Time disguis'd into a reddish earth, or is

(though unexpectedly) harboured in it. An Italian Mineralist, of Repute in the last Age, doth also take Notice, that a reddish Sort of Earth doth sometimes contain a Portion of the richest Metals. I have observed some European Diamonds, as many call a sort of clear finely figur'd Chrystals to grow in red Earth, whence I have taken up pretty Store of them; and an inquisitive Traveller, who hath been in the Indies, presented me with a certain Earth, which he affirmed to be from the Diamond Mines (I presume in the Kingdom of Golchonda) which I found to be also red, and which I made some Trials of, that belong not to this Place".

FINIS.

APPENDIX B.

[From the London *Courier* of Wednesday Evening, October 4, 1820.]

Valuable Freehold Manor, Advowson, Estate, and Tythes, at Church Preen, in the County of Salop, containing about 818 Acres of exceedingly good Meadow, Pasture, Arable and Wood Lands, lying compact together, within a ring fence, and divided into eligible Farms. To be Sold by Auction, by Messrs. Tudor and Lawrence, in the following or such other lots as shall be agreed upon at the time of Sale, at the Lion Inn, Shrewsbury, on Saturday, the 7th day of October next, at Four o'clock in the Afternoon (unless an acceptable offer in the meantime be made for the same by Private Contract, of which due notice will be given), subject to Land Tax, and a small annual payment to the Minister of Church Preen, and also subject to Conditions of Sale.

Lot 1. All that the Manor or Lordship of Church Preen, in the County of Salop, with its Rights, Members, and Appurtenances; and all that the Advowson of the Church of Church Preen aforesaid; and also all that Messuage, Tenement, Farm, and Lands, situate in the Parish of Church Preen aforesaid; containing together 367 a. 2 r. 29 p. or thereabouts, in the occupation of

Mr. Thomas Minton ; and all that Messuage and Garden adjoining thereto, containing 1 r. 20 p., in the occupation of Thomas Howells. The Farm and Lands in the occupation of Thomas Minton are held for the term of ninety years, determinable on the life of Samuel Minton, aged 72 years this month (October), and of William Minton, aged 70 in December next.

Lot 2. All those several Messuages, Tenements, Farm, and Lands, situated at Church Preen aforesaid, containing together 341 a. 2r. 5 p. or thereabouts, in the several occupations of Thomas Wilcox, Thomas Minton, Thomas Partridge, William Dudley, and Thomas Roberts, jun., as tenants at will.

Lot 3. All that Messuage, Tenement, Farm and Lands, situate at Church Preen aforesaid, containing together 72 a. 2 r. 36 p. or thereabouts, in the several occupations of Thomas Partridge and William Dudley, as tenants at will.

Lot 4. All those several Messuages, Tenements, Farm and Lands, situate at Church Preen aforesaid, containing together 35 a. 1 r. 34 p. or thereabouts, in the several occupations of Thomas Roberts, sen., and Thomas Roberts, jun., as tenants at will. The Tithes of the said Estate will be sold therewith. This property abounds with game ; and the extensive pieces of water thereon are well stocked, and afford excellent fishing. The Estate is

nine miles distant from the county town of Salop, and four miles from the market town of Wenlock.

Printed particulars are in preparation, and may be had on application to Messrs. Coupland, Dukes, and Salt, Attornies at Law, Shrewsbury; at whose Office a Plan of the Estate may be seen.

APPENDIX C.

Returns of Churches' Goods in the time of Edward VI to the Court of Exchequer (Queen's Remembrancer), County of Salop.

Inventories of plate, jewels, etc., of Churches in the Hundred of Condover in the County of Salop.

No. 11.

Prene.

The presentment of the p'yche of Prene.

Thys Indenture made the xiijth day of Auguste In vjth yere of the Rayne of your sofferayne Lorde Edward the vjth by Grace of God Kynge of Eyngland fraunce and Ireland Deffendor of the faythe and yerthe of the chourche of Yengland & Ireland supreme hed.

S' Rychard Ley, farm^{r}, Edward Whycke, Edwarde P'sons Wardens, foolcke Myddyllton and other two oneste men.

In p^{i}mis a chalys of sylver p'sell gylte.

It' ij belles and a cope of whyte sylke.

It' a sauntes bell and a syrples.

It' a ves'ment of red sylke and a crosse of brasse and a pyx of brasse.

Chargyd of the Present^{rs}.

(Public Record Office $\frac{8}{7}$ 6 Edward VI. I. P. R. 8625).

TRANSLATION

PREEN.

The Presentment of the Parish of Preen.

This Indenture made the 13th day of August in the 6th year of the Reign of your Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth, by the Grace of God, King of England, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, and (*in*) the Earth, of the Church of England and Ireland, Supreme Head.

Sir Richard Ley, Farmer (i.e., *Impropriator of the Tithes or Lay Rector*); Edward Whycke and Edward Parsons (*Church*) Wardens; and two other honest men.

Imprimis, a chalice of silver, parcel-gilt.

Item, two bells and a cope of white silk.

Item, a Saint's bell (*or sacring bell*), and a surplice.

Item, a vestment of red silk and a cross of brass, and a pix of brass.

Charged of the Presenters (*i.e.*, the Presenters were bound over for the safe custody of the property).

Returns of Churches' Goods in the time of Edward VI to the Court of Exchequer (Queen's Remembrancer), County of Salop.

PRENE.

This Byll Indented and made the xviijth day of . . . . of our Sou^r^ayng lord Edward the Sixt by the . . . . King Defendo^r^ of the faythe and in yerthe (the Earth) of the . . . . Ierland sup^r^me heed Betwyne Andrew Corbet R . . . . And Richard Newport esquire on' th'on' p'te a . . . . and Edw'd Wyke Churche Wardes of the other

p'te w . . . . Edward and Edward are bouden a . . . . p^r^sents to be charged and bounden to saue kepe to . . . . vnsold and vnbeseled now remayng in the p'ishe and . . . . wyll answere therefore In wytnes hereof we ha . . . . the Day and yere aboue sayd.

RYCHARDE LL.

(Public Record Office $\frac{8}{20}$, membrane 3.)

TRANSLATION.

PREEN.

This Bill indented and made the 18th day of (*torn*) oı our Sovereign Lord Edward the Sixth by the (*torn*) King, Defender of the Faith, and, in the Earth of the (*torn*) Ireland, Supreme Head, between Andrew Corbett, R (*torn*) and Richard Newport, Churchwardens of the other part, w(*torn*) Edward and Edward are bounden a (*torn*) presents to be charged and bounden to save, keep, to (*torn*) unsold and unembezzled, now remaining in the parish (*church*) and (*torn*) will answer there for. In Witness hereof we have (*torn*) the day and year abovesaid.

Richard LL (*part of the Parson's signature, or possibly that of the "Farmer", or Lay Rector*).

APPENDIX D.

Communications by the late Rev. Prebendary Mackenzie E. C. Walcott to *Salopian Shreds and Patches* (vol. iv., pp. 35, 51, and 67).

A SALOPIAN RECLUSE.—In a legend of quite the close of the thirteenth century, mention is made of a Salopian recluse, who had an ankerhold near a "basilica" dedicated to S. John Baptist, about six miles from Shrewsbury. It is difficult to identify this church, for the term "basilica" was applied to an unconsecrated church by John de Athon (*Lyndw*, 102), as it had been by the Legate Otho in 1237 (*ibid*, 5), to a "great church" previous to its dedication; the term "ecclesia", however, also is used, but it may distinguish the nave from the "choir". Again, there was no church of this description, which, like the term "choir", implies a cathedral or conventual minster, within this distance, except Haughmond, and that bore the title of S. John Evangelist, although the author, living in remote Cumberland, may have confounded the saints' names, which is not very probable. Two travelling Franciscans are mentioned in the narrative, and their nearest houses were at Bridgnorth, Stafford, and Lichfield, and it is possible that they were on their way to the adjoining county. My only alternative is to find the locality at S. John the Baptist's, Preen, a Cluniac cell of Wenlock, which is somewhat less

than ten miles from Shrewsbury, and lies in the direction of Bridgnorth; and I incline, for several reasons, to place it here. It is only necessary to premise that anchoresses would not be found in connection with a large conventual house like Haughmond, and might reasonably be looked for in the vicinity of a monastic cell, as we find them also living close to a parish church. In this case the anchoress had an oratory with an altar, a waiting-servant (ancilla), and several handmaidens (puellæ), who occupied an outer chamber. The little chapel adjoined the church, and commanded a view of its altar. There was also a guest-house for travellers. The English Canon Law forbade the appointment of recluses without the special license of the bishop of the diocese, after due consideration of the character of the place, the condition of the persons, and their competency of livelihood. He was to take into his consideration whether the place was near a church, or in a neighbourhood which could supply necessaries of life, or close to a conventual house where the inmates could be fed from the almonry. The anchorite might have private means, or be a member of the Order of Mendicants (Franciscans) (*Lyndw*, lib. iii, tit. 21, p. 114). According to Bishop Poore's *Ancien Rewle*, the chamber had three windows, one opening into the church; a parlour window for communication with visitors or guests closed by a black veil and shutter, and a house window used by the servant. Several of these ankerholds still exist, but it is not within the space at my command to enumerate them. I have merely made these preliminary observations to explain such portions of the legend as it will

interest general readers to have reproduced [*Chron. de Lanerc.*, 183]. "In the county of Sropesbiry, six miles from the town, lived a pious old woman named Emma, who was wont to receive holy visitations. It fell upon S. Francis-day (July 16), a saint whom she much affected, both for his own merits and for his habit which she wore, that she woke at midnight when friars sing their lauds. On the eve (July 15) she had received in her guest-chamber two friars of the order; wherefore, bethinking herself that she was bound to arise in honour of the feast whereon she had been made a recluse, she called her serving-maid and bade her bring a light for matin lauds. Twice it was set on the altar of her oratory, twice it was immediately blown out, so that the wick was not warm. The Patron of the church was the Precursor of Christ, to whom this recluse bore special love. Whilst she wondered that the light was thus quenched, she beheld a heavenly ray coming through the oratory window which adjoined the *basilica;* far above the brightness of the sun it kindled the faces of the handmaidens who lay in a further chamber." Then follows a vision of saints who ministered at the altar in the choir, and the calling of the two friars who, from third cock-crow to dawn of day, saw the whole area of the church [*ecclesia*] bathed in celestial light, which one of the twain, looking through the church window, saw burning like a taper before the image of the Baptist. Now, if any of your readers would carefully examine the walls of Preen Church, and observe whether there are traces of the ankerhold, on either of the sides of the chancel, or an image bracket at the end of the

nave, the result, if successful, would be interesting to archæologists, and afford another proof how documentary and architectural evidences combine for natural illustration.

MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT.

April 28th, 1880.

THE SALOPIAN RECLUSE: CHURCH PREEN.—A friend has kindly informed me that the Church of Preen is built on the south side into the modern mansion, which has replaced the older building. At the west end there is a low side window beneath a lancet. This bears out my suggestion that it was the scene of the curious legend which I narrated.

MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT.

June 16th, 1880.

PREEN CHURCH.—I have the permission of Mr. Arthur Sparrow, of Preen Manor, to publish the following interesting letter which I recently received from him.

MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT.

July 28th, 1880.

"The church was restored some 14 years ago, and part of the west end was rebuilt; but it has been a faithful restoration, and indeed the greater part of the church is as it was when it formed the chapel of the monks of the Cell of Wenlock. It is on the north (not south) side of my house, which was built upon the line of the foundations of the old monastery. A doorway still exists in the church, which evidently was the monks' entrance from

the monastery. The proportions of the church are unique—seventy feet long by twelve feet eight inches wide. In the old times, I suspect, the church was divided by a Rood-screen, the east end occupied by the monks, and the west by the cultivators of the land living upon the estate There is in the north wall, just on the *east side* of where the screen probably stood, what I have always looked upon as a leper window; it is a small square window *beneath* a lancet, and the marks of the hinges of the casement still exist. At the east end of the church, on either side of the east window, there is a bracket, evidently used for images. I cannot find any traces of the ankerhold on the north side of the chancel; but it may have very well existed, and all remains been obliterated. The churchyard is very much of higher level than formerly. On the south side of the chancel it could not have existed, as the buildings of the Cell joined the church. You will see from what I have said that there are even greater architectural evidences for identifying Preen with the legend than your letter of the 16th June stated".

APPENDIX E.

PEDIGREE OF HANBURY, copied and to a small extent revised, from a copy of the Toddington pedigree (Lord Sudeley's), though in the latter there are many omissions, including that of the name of Robert Hanbury, of Wolverhampton, born 1550. Such omissions I have endeavoured to supply, as far as possible, from the Public Records.

Arms:—*Or*, a bend engrailed *vert*, plain cottised *sable*.

Crest:—On a wreath of the colours (*or* and *vert*) a mural crown *sable*, and issuant therefrom a demi-lion *or*, holding a battle-axe of the last, helved of the first.

HANBRUACH OF HANBURIE, in the county of Worcester, in the time of Edward the Confessor, had a son, Urso of Hanburie, living in 1066, who was father of Ralph (or Radulphus) de Hanburie. The latter's son, Roger de Hanburie, was great-great-grandfather of Geoffrey de Hanburigh, or Hanbury, of the time of Henry III, who was father of another Geoffrey de Hanbury, who had a son—

HENRY DE HANBURY, who held lands at Dovebrigge, in Derbyshire. He was imprisoned for participating with the Earls of Lancaster, Warwick, and Hereford against the King, but obtained his release through the efforts of his uncle, John de Hanburie, and received a full pardon in 1318. On July 13th, 1336, King Edward III appointed him Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland.

To a deed dated 26 Edward III this Henry de Hanbury affixed his seal bearing the same arms (*a bend engrailed plain cottised*) as are still used by the family.

The Lord Chief Justice was father of

REGINALD DE HANBURY, M.P. for Worcestershire, 27 Edward III, who had a son—

ROGER DE HANBURY, M.P. for Worcestershire, 6 Richard II, who had a son—

JOHN DE HANBURY, *temp.* Henry IV, who through his third son, Richard,[1] was grandfather of

RICHARD[1] HANBURY, who by Catherine Smythe, his first wife, had issue—

RICHARD HANBURY, of Elmley Lovett, Worcestershire, who married the daughter of John Bassett, of North Luffenham, Rutland (by Anne his wife, daughter of Thomas Rouse, of Overton, Worcestershire), and became father of—

JOHN HANBURY, of Elmley Lovett, who, having been twice married, was buried at that place April 13th, 1559. His second wife, Elizabeth Bradley, survived him, and was also buried there March 15th, 1578. They had a son—

ROBERT HANBURY, of Wolverhampton, baptized at Elmley Lovett, September 26th, 1550, who was buried at Wolverhampton in 1601. His son,

JOHN HANBURY, of Wolverhampton, was also buried there, leaving by Dorothy his wife, sister of Edward Rabye, a son—

ROBERT HANBURY, of Wolverhampton, who died April 8th, 1651, having had issue by his first wife, Lettice

[1] These two Richards are given by *Burke*, but there is only one in the Toddington pedigree.

(who was buried at Wolverhampton Jan. 22nd, 1639), daughter of Francis Fellows of The Werge, a fourth son,

FRANCIS HANBURY, of Wolverhampton, and Norton Hall, Staffordshire, baptized at Wolverhampton, Oct. 1st, 1637, and buried at Norton, Feb. 26th, 1703. By Elizabeth his wife, to whom he was married before 1665, he had a son—

ROBERT HANBURY, of Norton Hall, who was baptized at Norton, Sept. 9th, 1675; married at the Abbey Church, Shrewsbury, April 1st, 1704, to Frances Moseley, of Walsall, Staffordshire; sold his estate in 1727; buried at Norton, May 8th, 1740, leaving a son—

ROBERT HANBURY, who by Anne his wife had a son—

THOMAS HANBURY, of Birmingham, who was buried at Norton, Feb. 10th, 1773; having married at St. Philip's, Birmingham, Dec. 25th, 1760, Mary, dau. of Joseph Dalton (who was buried at St. Philip's, Birmingham, Nov. 7th, 1787), and leaving issue a daughter—

MARY, baptized at St. Philip's Church, March 9th, 1765; married (as his first wife), WILLIAM SPARROW (see p. 61).